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THE TIMES

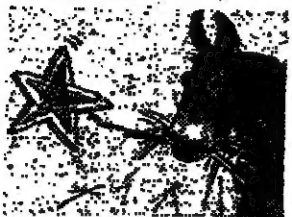
THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 1984

No 62,021

20p

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Boy's eye view
Christmas Day
in the life of
Adrian Mole



Drama in the dales
The Yorkshire tale
to rival
Dallas and Dynasty

Screen image
Will British film
year in 1985 reflect
the true nature
of the industry?

Could try harder
Philip Howard gives
an end-of-term
report on
Britain's politicians

Portfolio

The £2,000 Times Portfolio
prize on Christmas Eve was
shared between two readers.
Mr Robert Langdon, of King-
ston-upon-Thames, Surrey,
and Mr Brian Culliffe, of
Great Crosby, Liverpool. There
is another £2,000 to be won
today; rules and how to play -
back page Information Service;
today's list - page 12.

Hunt protest group issues 'hit list'

Anti field sports activists
claimed responsibility for des-
ecrating the grave of the tenth
Duke of Beaufort, former
Master of the Beaufort Hunt.
The Hunt Retribution Squad
also said it had drawn up a 'hit-
list' of people, including the
Royal Family, Lord Whitelaw,
Mr Michael Heseltine, Jackie
Charlton and football presenter
Jimmy Hill.

Oil warning

The United Arab Emirates will
go for a price war unless Opec
agrees on a package deal
covering price differentials as
well as a scheme to monitor
output, their oil minister said in
Geneva on the eve of today's
conference.

Ankara accord

Turkey and the Soviet Union
signed long-term economic co-
operation and trade agreements
during the visit to Ankara by
the Soviet Premier, Mr Nikolai
Tikhonov.

Scargill warning

Mr Arthur Scargill said that if
the Government did not want
the pit dispute to continue until
next Christmas, it must allow
the coal board to negotiate with
the NUM.

Tehran bombs

Two bombs exploded within 12
hours in Tehran, leaving six
people dead and about 50
injured. The Mujahedin oppo-
sition group denied responsibility.

Spanish pardon

King Juan Carlos granted a
pardon, the first of its kind, to
one of the former officers
convicted of taking part in the
1981 coup-attempt.

United stumble

Manchester United lost their
chance to go top of the First
Division when they were beaten
by the bottom club, Stoke City.

Leader page 9

Letters: On Levin attack from
Mr E. Heffer, MP and Miss P.
A. Smith; South African econo-
mic links from Dr J. P. Barber.
Leading articles: GLC replace-
ment; Soviet defence ministry;
ritual killings.

Features, pages 6 & 8

Indian voters observed; Reso-
lutions against Kinross in the
New Year? games board, not
bored; Philip Norman: Un-
moved by New York movie-
going; Profile of record-breaking
National Hunt jockey, John
Francome.

Books, page 7

Richard Holmes reviews Boszoy;
Alan Massie on Linklater; John
Nicholson on fiction of the
week; Anthony Masters on
Michael Bennet and Beryl
Reid.

Obituary, page 10

Mr Ian Hendry, Mr Peter
Lawford.

Home News 2-3 Church 19

Overseas 4-5 Court 28

Arts 10-13 Crossword 26

Architecture 10 Law Report 18

Arts 11 Science 14-17

Books Reviews 12-13 TV & Radio 19

Chess 4 Weather 20

Hostages in Libya may be freed early next month

By Robin Young

Expectations improved yester-
day that four Britons held as
political hostages in Libya may
soon be released, as the result of
the mission of the Archbishop
of Canterbury's special envoy,
Mr Terry Waite.

Mr Waite was invited yester-
day to attend a meeting of the
Libyan People's Congress, ex-
pected to start on January 5.

The Libyan leader, Colonel
Gaddafi, told Mr Waite on
Christmas Day that he would
recommend to the congress, as
its first item of business, that the
four men should be released.

Yesterday Mr Waite met the
acting Foreign Minister of
Libya in Tripoli and had the
details of Colonel Gaddafi's
proposals confirmed to him.

Mr Waite said: "They told me
they thought it would be help-
ful if I returned to London to
report to the Archbishop, but
came back in the first week of
the new year to attend the
people's congress. The acting
minister concluded by saying
"I have every confidence that
there will be a positive deci-
sion."

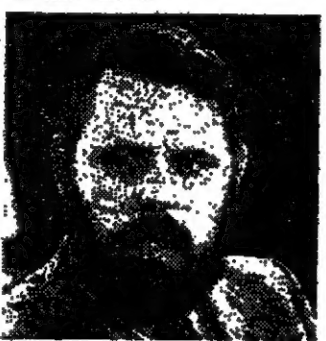
The four detainees are: Mr
Alan Russell, an English
teacher, accused of speaking to
a BBC World Service reporter
after an unsuccessful armed
attack on Colonel Gaddafi's
headquarters last May; Mr
Malcolm Anderson, an oil
engineer, whose alleged offence
was having letters in his
possession to take to England to
post for colleagues; Mr Robin

Plummer, a telephone engineer
originally arrested for doing a
U-turn on the university
campus in Tripoli; and Mr
Michael Berdinner, an English
lecturer at the university whose
alleged offence had not been
disclosed.

In a statement on Christmas
night, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the
Foreign Secretary, welcomed
the news that Mr Waite's
meeting with Colonel Gaddafi
had resulted in the Libyan
leader's recommendation that
the men should now be
released.

"If this leads to the release of
the four British detainees this
will be a very welcome and
constructive development", Sir
Geoffrey said.

He added that the Govern-
ment had "of course been in
close touch with Mr Waite and
are very grateful to the Arch-
bishop of Canterbury and him
for their efforts".



Mr Waite: Hopes raised
after mission

Reports from Tripoli that Mr
Waite had passed Colonel
Gaddafi a message from the
Government were, however,
promptly and swiftly denied:
"Any letters Mr Waite had for
Colonel Gaddafi came from the
Archbishop of Canterbury and
not from us", a Foreign Office
official said yesterday.

In his report of his two-hour
conversation with Colonel
Gaddafi, Mr Waite said that the
Libyan leader had expressed
concern about "harsh treat-
ment" of Libyan students living
in Britain.

A spokesman for Dr Robert
Runcie, said speaking to Mr
Waite last night that this
referred only to Libyan students
living and working in Britain,
not those charged with terrorist
offences.

Mr Waite had proposed that
the British Council of Churches
might set up telephone centres
and a student counselling
service for the benefit of Libyan
students living in Britain who
might feel nervous or fright-
ened.

Four Libyan students have
been committed for trial in
Manchester and two in London
charged with involvement in a
total of seven bomb attacks in
the two cities which injured 26
people last March.

The Government has consis-
tently ruled out any possibility
of doing a deal which might
allow Libyan terrorists held in
Britain to go free.

Photograph, page 2

Politician's murder mars Indian poll

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Three days of voting in the
Indian general election have
been marred by political vio-
lence which culminated yester-
day in the assassination and
murder of a south Indian leader.

The killing of Mr K. Uma-
shankar Reddy, a member of
the upper house of the Andhra
Pradesh legislature, appears to
have arisen from a vendetta
between left-wing Naxalite guer-
rillas and a group opposing
them. The number of election-
related deaths rose yesterday to
21.

The toll behind the statement
by the Chief Election Com-
missioner, Mr R. K. Trivedi,
that polling candidates in
Andhra Pradesh, which goes to
the polls for the first time today,
have been given armed body-
guards, as their constituencies
are infested with the Naxalites
involved in the vendetta in
which Mr Reddy died.

Thirteen of the deaths oc-
curred in the state of Bihar,
where political brawls have
become notorious, the eight
other killings in various parts of
the country, included that of an
independent candidate, who
was attacked by rival pro-
cession.

Voting has been concluded in
Bihar and most other states, but
will continue today in Uttar
Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh,
Jammu and Kashmir and
Maharashtra. A final round of
voting will take place tomorrow
in three constituencies, two in
Meghalaya and one in Naga-
land. Both states are in the
mountainous north-east.

Counting begins tomorrow,
and it is expected there will be
a hundred definite results by
midnight.

As well as the violence, there
has been evidence of electoral
malpractice in Bihar, Jammu
and Kashmir, West Bengal,
Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

In the latter state, a *Times*
correspondent saw ballot-stuff-
ing, vote-stealing and intimid-
ation taking place.

Because of complaints of
malpractice, re-voting will take
place today at nearly 150
polling stations.

In fairness too, it should be
pointed out that deaths from
caste conflicts are not uncom-
mon in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh.
There are frequent armed
clashes between gangs of high-
caste Bhumihars (the name
simply landholders) or Brahmins
and lower-caste Yadavs, or
between Harijans and the
higher castes.

The electoral violence may
therefore be seen as another sort
of social conflict, and not just
part of the polling scene.

However, the *Times of India*
said yesterday that the intensifi-
cation of class and caste hatred
could not fully account for the
"continued spate of head-bash-
ing".

But the traditional hostility
between Jats and Harijans in
Haryana state did not disturb
the electoral peace there because
local politicians of all hues
resisted the temptation to
induce violence to browbeat
their rivals, the newspaper said.

Rajiv's chances, page 8

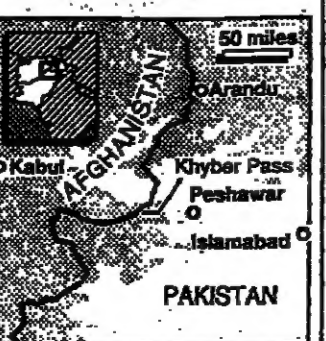
Four Pakistanis killed in Afghan air raid

Islamabad (AP) - Six Afghan
aircraft bombed a Pakistani
village close to the Afghan
border, killing four people and
injuring six others, a Pakistani
Foreign Ministry spokesman
said yesterday.

He said the bombing oc-
curred on Tuesday at the village
of Arand, in the Chitral area
150 miles north-west of Isma-
bad.

The Afghan charge d'affaires
was summoned to the Foreign
Ministry and a "strong protest"
was lodged with him, the
spokesman said.

According to the Pakistanis,
Afghan military aircraft have
committed more than 636
violations of Pakistani air space
between 1978 and December.



1984. Afghan ground troops
allegedly shelled Pakistani terri-
tory on 131 occasions during
the same period.

Crisis prospects, page 5

Extradited man plans 'life' appeal

Dominic McGlinchey, one-
time reputed leader of the Irish
National Liberation Army, is to
appeal against his conviction
for the murder of a policeman's
brother, his solicitor, Mr Joe
Rice, said yesterday.

McGlinchey, aged 30, was
the first terrorist suspect to be
extradited from the Irish Re-
public to Northern Ireland. He
was sentenced to life imprison-
ment on Christmas Eve for the
murder of an elderly postmistress
at Toomebridge Co Antrim,
seven years ago.

The appeal is expected to be
lodged with the Ulster High
Court within the next week.

McGlinchey was Ireland's
most hunted fugitive at the time
of his arrest by the Garda nine
months ago and in recent years
was considered to be the
commander of the INLA after
having been a member of the
Provisional IRA. In a clan-
destine press interview near
Dublin last year he admitted to
being involved in more than 20
killings.

Under the terms of his
extradition, the Ulster autho-
rities could try him only for the
offence cited on the
extradition warrant - the
murder of Mrs Hester McMul-
lan, aged 67. She died when her
house, where she lived with her
son, a police reservist, was
sprayed by Armalite rifle fire.

The prosecution maintained
McGlinchey's thumb print was
found on a window of the gang's
VW getaway car. McGlinchey, a
car mechanic, claimed he had
both worked on the vehicle, and
had been given a lift in it.

Mr Justice Hutton, however,
said it was straining credibility
too far to suggest that the
thumb print was placed at other
than the material time. He
accepted as evidence affidavits
which McGlinchey had sworn
in Dublin that he had been
involved in Provisional IRA
operations. The judge said he
found it difficult to assess the
extent of McGlinchey's involve-
ment in the Toomebridge
murder, and would make no
recommendation on the mini-
mum term he should serve in jail.

Immediately after McGlinchey
was sentenced, the Royal
Ulster Constabulary scaled
down its investigations into a
number of other killings. His
conviction came only hours
after 14 loyalists, convicted on
the evidence of a supergrass,
were cleared by the Northern
Ireland Court of Appeal.

"Killings boost," page 3



Close call for champion

John Francome, the champion
jockey, rode Burrough Hill
Lad, the odds-on favourite to a
photo-finish victory in yester-
day's big race at Kempton
Park, the King George VI
Chase. In a field of three, the
smallest for 20 years, this

year's Cheltenham Gold Cup
winner just held on to beat
Combs Ditch. Francome was
earlier fined £50 for his riding
of Gratification (Photograph:
Chris Cole)

Francome profile, page 6;
racing, page 17

Thatcher stays firm over Falklands

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has
repeatedly said that she
stands by her decision to
send British troops to the
Falkland Islands.

In a special Christmas broad-
cast to the Islands, Mrs
Margaret Thatcher said: "I want
to have a word about many of
the visitors that I know you get
coming to Falklands. Some of
them come with all sorts of
ideas, some of them start
pontificating about the future."

But she then stated: "The
Falkland Islands are British
territory. The people have been
there for many generations,
often before families that went
to Argentina."

"People who come and see
you come from a democracy.
Democracy is about the right of
self-determination. And when
people now tell me: 'Ah, well,
there is democracy in the Ar-
gentine', I say: 'Yes, and the
people in government of the
Argentine should know now they
have democracy, they have self-
determination, and they should
know that they must extend that
same right to the people of the
Falklands.'"

Dalyell refuses to reveal source on Murrell death

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour
MP who has blamed British
intelligence burglars for the
killing of a woman aged 78 in
Shrewsbury last March, is
refusing to disclose the identity
of his source to the police.

An appointment has been
made for Mr Dalyell to be
interviewed by Chief Superin-
tendent David Cole, head of
West Mercia CID, at the House
of Commons on January 15.

But Mr Dalyell said last night
that although he was convinced
that his source would be able to
help the police with their
murder investigation, he could
not supply the name. "Once I
start to reveal sources, who else
will talk to me again?" he asked.

The MP said in the Com-
mons last Thursday that Miss
Hilda Murrell, an international
rose expert, had been killed
after she had disturbed burglars
who, he said, may have
suspected that Miss Murrell was
keeping documents relating to
the sinking of the General

"That is why I constantly say
to everyone who comes to see
me: it is the wishes of the
Falkland Islanders that are
paramount - and so it will
continue to be."

A report from the Commons
select committee on foreign
affairs, published earlier this
month, failed to reach a
"categorical conclusion on the
legal validity of the historical
claims of either country."

It also said: "Some kind of
accommodation with Argentina
is not only inevitable, in view of
the cost of the present policy to
the UK, but also desirable if the
Falklands are to have any
prospect of long-term economic
prosperity and political stabil-
ity."

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP
for Linlithgow and the most
steadfast critic of government
policy towards the Falklands,
said last night that he had
written to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the
Foreign Secretary, about the
implications of the broadcast.

He said that the Prime
Minister was playing into the
hands of those elements of the
Argentine Military who wanted
to take revenge against Britain

PM's pay rise 'will be only 5 per cent'

By Our Political
Correspondent

The Prime Minister has
decided to take a pay rise of
only 5 per cent from the start of
the new year, next Tuesday,
with a salary of £42,980
including parliamentary allow-
ance.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is
entitled to draw £53,600, but
draws the reduced salary entitle-
ment of a Cabinet minister in
the Commons in order to set an
example of restraint.

That decision to forego more
than £10,000 means that there
are two dozen senior civil
servants, including the Sec-
retary of the Cabinet and the
Permanent Secretary to the
Treasury, who have been
receiving £51,250 from last
month, and all the depart-
mental permanent secretaries,
who have been getting £45,500
from last month, who earn
more than the Prime Minister
and all her Cabinet colleagues.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of
the Opposition, will be re-
ceiving an extra £1,920, or 3.5
per cent, to put him on £40,310
from the new year - just over
£50 a week less than Mrs
Thatcher.

Salaries for back-bench MPs
in the Commons go up at the
same time from £16,106 to
£16,908, an increase of £802 a
month.

According to the latest
Department of Employment
figures, the underlying increase
in average earnings for all
workers to last October was 7.5
per cent.

Increases in MPs' salaries
and ministerial salaries, by
annual stages of between 5.5
per cent and 4.5 per cent at the
start of each year to 1987, were
announced in the Commons on
July 21 last year after a back-
bench revolt on the issue.

Full list of new salaries, including
reduced parliamentary salary where
office holders are also MPs

Prime Minister and Cabinet members in Commons	£42,980
Lord Chancellor	£42,980
Mr Speaker	£44,560
Cabinet ministers in Lords	£33,280
Minister of State, Commons	£28,580
Minister of State, Lords	£28,000
Parl. Sec., Commons	£28,120
Parl. Sec., Lords	£22,520
Attorney General	£44,560
Solicitor General	£38,840
Lord Advocate, Commons	£33,280
Sol. Gen. Scotland	£34,700

"The Lord Chancellor has a notional
salary set at £22,000 more than the
Lord Chief Justice's £38,900 but is
expected to continue taking the Lords
cabinet salary, £33,280, little more than half
his entitlement."

In the Commons:	
Opposition Leader	£40,310
Chief Whip	£37,580
Deputy Chief Whip	£33,580
Opp. Chief Whip	£33,580
Government Whip	£25,310
Assistant Opp. Whip	£25,310
Chairman, Ways and Means	£25,310
In the Lords:	
Chief Whip	£28,000
Deputy Chief Whip	£22,520
Government Whip	£19,710
Opposition Leader	£22,520
Opp. Chief Whip	£19,710
Chairman of Committees	£19,710
Prin. Dep. Chair. of Comm.	£25,160

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP
for Linlithgow and the most
steadfast critic of government
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said last night that he had
written to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the
Foreign Secretary, about the
implications of the broadcast.

He said that the Prime
Minister was playing into the
hands of those elements of the
Argentine Military who wanted
to take revenge against Britain

Belgrano during the 1982
Falklands conflict.

Miss Murrell was known to
be close to her nephew,
Commander Rob Green, a
former naval intelligence officer
who had passed the signal
ordering the sinking.

No such documents were
being held at Miss Murrell's
home and Mr Dalyell accepted
that there was no premeditated
attack by the burglars, but he
told the House: "Being a lady
of courage and spirit, often found
in that generation of women,
Miss Murrell fought them.
They, too, had to fight, injured,
her, and panicked. The cover-
up had to begin because the
searchers were members of
British Intelligence, I am
informed."

Mr Dalyell, who called for a
select committee of Privy
Councillors to monitor the
activities of the intelligence
services, said last night: "I do
believe that there are certain
areas of British Intelligence that
are running amok."

For millions of children Christmas is something
to look forward to.
For thousands, though, it can prove just the
beginning of another year of deprivation.

We try our best, throughout the year, to tackle
both the emotional and physical problems of these
thousands.
Unfortunately, we are unable to help them all.
Not through any lack of willing. But because of
lack of money.
So please help us with a donation however small.
To small children its effect won't be small. 2362

Name _____

Address _____

Amount £ _____

Please make my donation by VISA Access.

Please debit my Bank Giro Account.

To: Church of England Children's Society,
Freepost, London SE11 4SR.



The Children's Society

TUC rejects cut in real wages as means of reducing unemployment

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The union movement has launched a campaign to counter growing pressure from the Government for cuts in real wages as a means of reducing unemployment, which the TUC expects to be a cornerstone of short-term economic policy.

The first issue of a bi-monthly TUC economic briefing, published today, which will be sent to all unions, argues that the Government strategy is "simplistic" and will lead to an increasing number of workers falling into the poverty trap.

Ministers, determined to encourage the reduction in wages costs as a means of creating more jobs, are taking their lead from Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said in October that if earnings rose slower than prices instead of 3 per cent faster a further 500,000 jobs could be created.

Whitehall has argued that 50,000 more jobs could be available if industries covered by wages councils were relieved of the necessity to follow minimum rates established by the councils. But the TUC document says that there is no evidence to support that claim or the assertion that paying adult wages to young people depresses employment.

"The logic of the government argument points the way to a society based on ever-widening inequalities in wages, living standards and conditions, a two-tier job market and an increase in insecurity and in authoritarian management," the TUC says.

The union argument is that since 1979 unemployment has more than doubled while real wages of some of the lowest paid, including young people, have been cut. The TUC, quoting Department of Employment statistics, says that the lowest 10 per cent of male manual workers suffered a real pay cut of 2 per cent, while those under 18 saw a reduction of 6 per cent.

Despite the union arguments, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, will press ahead in the new year with proposals for redrawing responsibilities of wages councils, which are set the minimum

wages of almost three million low-paid workers.

The thrust of the Government's policy will be to reduce the costs of employing young people and is likely to come down against wholesale abolition of the councils. Ministers recently suffered the embarrassment of a report, commissioned by the Department of Employment, showing that wages councils in the retail sector had "no independent employment effect".

The TUC says it "wholeheartedly rejects cynical attempts by the Government to duck the blame for unemployment. There is no mystery about the huge loss of jobs since 1979", and the TUC presses for higher investment to provide the new jobs.

It questions the Government's argument that British wage costs are too high compared with international competitors and states that total hourly labour costs in manufacturing are about half of those in the United States and two-thirds those in West Germany.

Navy anxious over new ships delay

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Mounting pressure on the defence budget is causing anxiety in the Royal Navy that it may lead to a slowing down in the rate of ordering frigates and destroyers and affect the quality of the Fleet at the end of the decade.

Orders for two type-22 Broadsword Class frigates, which had been expected by the end of 1983, have still not been decided. As recently as the end of October, ministers were saying that they hoped to announce the orders before the end of the year, but it was officially stated immediately before Christmas that no decisions had yet been taken.

The delay has partly been caused by difficulties in deciding which of three competing shipyards, Swan Hunter, Vosper Thornycroft and Cammell Laird, should get the contracts. But it is believed that the most recent delays have been influenced by budgetary pressures.

There is also concern about the likely rate of ordering of the new type-23 Duke Class of frigate. In his defence review of June 1981, Sir John Nott, then Secretary of State for Defence, said the ministry would "accelerate to the maximum possible extent" the ordering of the first of this class. But the order was not placed until last October.

The Navy expects to build at least eight type-23s but there are now worries over how long this will take.

Alliance only beacon in political gloom, Steel says

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The savagery of the coal strike and the continuing plague of unemployment cast a blight on 1984, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said in a message to party members yesterday.

The Liberal-SDP Alliance had become the only beacon of light in the political gloom, and he appealed to the Alliance to face up to the formidable responsibility of creating a "credible and united alternative government".

Mr Steel said that the deep divisions of class and prejudice had been widened by the coal strike, and the Government's failure to take advantage of North Sea oil to rebuild the economy had become more apparent. "The devastation of long-term unemployment continues to spread like a plague across our towns and cities", he said.

As Labour collapsed, the Alliance had emerged as the real alternative and the only hope of stopping a third Thatcher term, he said.

"The seven by-elections to date give the Alliance 36 per cent of the Tories' 34 per cent and Labour's 27 per cent, this demonstrating our continuing upward movement since the general election."

"In the last six months of 1984, we have had on the local election front 26 Liberal net gains of councillors plus eight SDP net gains, compared with only 12 for Labour and a decline of 38 for the Tories."

"It is already apparent that whatever the electoral arithmetic at the next election, to put it at its lowest, the next British Government is unlikely to be formed without us," Mr Steel said.

Recent years have seen a striking growth in central government payments to voluntary groups, notably from the Manpower Services Commission and the Department of the Environment. Since 1979, grants from the latter have risen by more than 270 per cent; its urban programme supports community projects in Birmingham and workshops for the mentally handicapped in Lam-

Laws part families at Christmas

By Our Race Relations Correspondent

Hundreds of British children are spending their Christmas holidays separated from their fathers by immigration rules which are causing Conservative backbench MPs to become increasingly uneasy.

The children are innocent victims of the "primary purpose" which prohibits the entry to Britain of men judged by immigration officials to have married in order to gain the right to settlement here.

Mr Trevor Skeet, Conservative MP for north Bedfordshire, says it is an impossible matter to prove. How can anyone judge which of several reasons for a marriage is the main one, he asks. Immigration officials, he says, twist the answers to questions posed under the rule to suit their own convenience.

The British Council of Churches is urging the Government to end such separation of families by bringing immigration rules into line with EEC law.

Husbands or wives of EEC nationals working in another member state are allowed to join their spouses, irrespective of their own citizenship. In Britain, men can bring in their foreign wives, but women are prevented from bringing in their husbands by the "primary purpose" rule.

Mr Skeet says it is unreasonable to expect women who have lived in Britain since childhood, acquired permanent settlement and have become westernized to move to another country if they marry men without rights to enter Britain.

He also backs a plea to the Home Office that deportations of husbands already here should stop until decisions are made on their wives' applications for British citizenship.

The Home Office argues that allowing the husbands to come in endangers the labour market in Britain, and would be unfair to other men seeking entry clearance to Britain if marriage allowed them to "jump the queue". But ministers acknowledge that many of the cases brought to them by MPs involve genuine marriages and families.

Most of the families affected involve women from the Asian sub-continent. Miss Clare Short, Labour MP for Brighton, Ladywood, said the grief and misery of the families was heartrending. It was worst for women who had been able to live with their husbands for a short while and now had children to support.

Charities: 1

Volunteers walk the funding tightrope

Are voluntary social services organisations about to pay the price of their increasing reliance on public money? What the Government and councils can give them can also take away — as charities and voluntary groups in London and the big cities are now finding out. DAVID WALKER and HEATHER TOWNSEND report.

South London. The 26,300 full and part-time employees of English voluntary housing associations rely on the £500 million or more handed out each year by a gang of the Housing Corporation.

Attention has focused on the spectacular increase in money from councils. The GLC is spending £53 million this year on grants to voluntary bodies — up from £5 million in 1981-82, the first year of Labour administration at County Hall.

The table, based on a sample of groups in the City of Westminster, shows the extent of reliance on public money; the pattern would probably hold in other metropolitan areas.

Mr Charles Woods, of Voluntary Action, Westminster, notes "there is a tendency for

more work to be done by aid staff; there has been a growth of staff and in the number of organizations recently. It is an effect of more generous grant-giving by public authorities, especially the GLC."

In other words, not only do grants form a higher proportion of voluntary groups' income but a number of voluntary organizations (especially feminist and ethnic groups) have been established in response to the ready availability of money.



Children singing in the chapel being built from runway rubble at RAF Molesworth (Photograph: John Manning).

Protest flourishes in the mud

By Pat Healy

From the road, it looks as if the disused Second World War airfield at RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, has been encamped by gypsies with a long row of caravans, brightly painted buses and tents by the trees. Then you reach the sign declaring that this is "Peace Corner" and another marking out "Anarchy Farm".

Molesworth, designated Britain's second cruise missile base, now accommodates the most rapidly growing peace camp of the dozen providing a permanent protest against nuclear weapons and American bases. It is the only one established on a base, because Molesworth has neither fence nor gates to keep out intruders.

The base will be the site of next Easter's peace protests organized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which is planning a permanent rota of campers to prevent a fence being built there so that missile silos can be constructed at the base.

In the past four months, more than 100 men, women

and children with attendant goats, dogs and cats, have arrived to set up home there. They are a mixed band, including master builders, carpenters and printers, united only by their opposition to cruise missiles.

Their determination is epitomized by the chapel — named Eirene, the Greek word for "peace" — which is slowly being built with runway rubble at the main entrance. The chapel has been dedicated by the Bishop of Huntingdon and was used recently for a carol service attended by more than 100 people, including several members of Ex-Services CND wearing their campaign medals and service decorations.

The chapel is the most enduring of the structures on the peace camp, but a new print workshop is being built, to replace the present marquee which houses the duplicator and typewriters on which they compose their messages to the world. There is a temporary school for the 15 children there, but it, too will be replaced by a more permanent structure.

The camp has had its first baby, Tara Lorian-Findlay, boy now four months old who was born in his parents' bus at Molesworth. His two sisters and older brother have experienced some of the hostility aroused in nearby villages by the presence of the camp. Ben, aged 14, has dropped out of school because of the hostility expressed to him, but the girls Rhian, aged 7, and Lennie, 6, continue to go because of the support expressed to them by their mother by other parents with children at the school.

The campers hope that the extensive mud on the base will make any eviction difficult to effect, and that a newsletter delivered recently will help to break down local hostility.

But Bridie Wallis, a former nurse who was married in the Molesworth chapel and lives in nearby Clonville village, said that peace protesters were now part of any nuclear missile base. If local people wanted to get rid of the protesters, the missiles would have to go, too.

Hecklers thrown out of church



Christmas apart: Mrs Frances Waite, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, at their home in Blackheath, south London, yesterday. Mr Terry Waite returns tonight from Libya, where he has been seeking the release of four British hostages.

Hecklers from the Rev Ian Paisley's Free Presbyterian Church were ejected from a Christmas morning church service at Limavady, Co Londonderry, when they objected to the presence of a Roman Catholic priest.

For the second consecutive year, the Rev David Armstrong, Limavady's Presbyterian minister and Fr Kevin Mullan, the Catholic parish priest, were attending each other's Christmas services to exchange greetings with the congregations of the two churches which are separated by only 30 yards.

Three Free Presbyterian demonstrators slipped into the service at the Presbyterian church and began heckling. Scuffles broke out and the hecklers were ejected by members of the congregation. The Rev James McClements, the local Free Presbyterian minister who was leading the protesters claimed he was punched in the face.

Plane crash victim found

The police have confirmed that a woman found dead on Stonehaven beach, Kincardine, last Wednesday was Miss Aileen Ross, aged 36, the former wife of the stores tycoon Sir Hugh Fraser who was a passenger on a microlight plane which plunged into the sea off Inverberrie seven weeks ago.

Woman in flames

A woman, aged 36, was recovering in hospital yesterday after being engulfed in flames in her living room. Mrs Christine Middlehurst, of Drake Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, was said to be "improving" after suffering burns to more than 50 per cent of her body.

Bomber marries

Ann Bateson, aged 28, of Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, who is serving 20 years for a bombing and is due to be freed in 1987, married while on Christmas parole.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25; Belgium 125; Canada 125; Denmark 125; France 125; Germany 125; Greece 125; Hong Kong 125; India 125; Ireland 125; Italy 125; Japan 125; Korea 125; Malaysia 125; Mexico 125; New Zealand 125; Norway 125; Portugal 125; Singapore 125; South Africa 125; Sweden 125; Switzerland 125; Taiwan 125; Thailand 125; USA 125; Yugoslavia 125.

Ten saved as tug capsizes

Ten people were rescued from a tug which capsized and sank off the Isle of Wight on Christmas Eve. One crew member is missing. The Implacable went down about 30 miles off St Catherine's Point.

The rescued people were winched to safety from a lifeboat by the crew of a helicopter.

The 750-ton tug, which recently began a sea contract work for the Ministry of Defence, was on its way to the Falklands. She had a Merchant Navy crew of 11.

Help for hard-hit pit equipment industry rejected

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government has rejected pleas from the country's increasingly battered mining equipment industry for urgent, short-term help and there are now fears among companies that the crisis brought on by the miners' dispute may soon become a disaster.

Almost all of the 90 members of the Association of British Mining Equipment Companies (Abmec) are operating short-time working and many have had to lay off workers.

But attempts to persuade the Department of Trade and Industry to make the industry a special case with the reintroduction of the temporary short-time working supplement have come to naught. Mr Harold Rhodes, director general of Abmec, said: "We have been extended a sympathetic ear but the Government's answer is that available funds have been directed into training programmes."

"We don't expect to be bailed out, but when the strike is over there will be a vacuum and we would have hoped for some better treatment."

Ordering by the National Coal Board of which was already clipped by the miners' overtime ban, has sunk to under 80 per cent of last year's levels and while the board is keeping its suppliers informed of future needs it is not buying equipment for which it has no immediate use.

Activity in the industry varies from 25 to 75 per cent, largely in proportion to a company's dependency on the coal board and the different successes being achieved in export markets. There are hopes that last year's £150 million of overseas sales (from output totalling £1 billion) will rise to £200 million this year.

The impact on the equipment industry has been patchy and unpredictable, but the lay-offs and concern among companies has added to the gloom that has settled over industry and commerce in the coalfield regions.

A recent study by Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, concluded that Dobson Park Industries, which relies on the coal board for 50 per cent of its sales, was particularly vulnerable, while the Dowry group had been least affected. These two, and Anderson Strathclyde, were however most likely to benefit from increased business abroad.

The industry fears that after the strike there may not be a big backlog of orders unleashed. With more coal fields becoming unworkable because of the strike or the board's closure plans, new equipment orders will be curtailed. This prospect comes on top of last year's bad trading conditions.

The coal board's ordering power is enormous and the impact of the dispute is being felt beyond immediate suppliers to sub-contractors and providers of ancillary equipment. Last year, the total amount spent by the board on contracts and services was £1.2 billion of which about £1 billion was on machinery and other pit equipment. The board has 4,000 suppliers of which about half account for 92 per cent of the £1 billion of machinery equipment supplies.

'No return' to old coal output level

Coal production in Britain will never return to its pre-strike level of 110 million tons, according to a report today by DRI Europe, energy analysts based in Paris. Annual production will pick up next year to 70 million tons after the dispute, assumed to end in the second quarter, and rise to 97 million tons in 1986. That level will be maintained to 1995 by new mines.

Elsewhere in the industrial economy, the coal strike is having negligible impact, only in the retail sector, and particularly in small shops, is the lack of spending power among miners and their families making inroads into business finances.

A survey of the regional offices of the Confederation of British Industry shows that industry generally is more preoccupied with national issues such as unemployment and if export-orientated, their international competitiveness. The CBI's Yorkshire and Humberside region said: "For the majority of firms the coal dispute remains of negligible importance. Demand and sales remain brisk, particularly in consumer products, clothing, textiles, chemicals and pharmaceuticals."

Overcrowding puts young in adult jails

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Juveniles aged 15 are being drafted out of young people's remand centres to adult prisons to alleviate acute overcrowding, the National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO) says.

Members have reported that some of these juveniles are spending 23 hours a day in their prison cells because of lack of education, staffing problems, and to avoid mixing with older prisoners.

"Investigations have revealed that the authorities allocate separate landings for the younger prisoners but that separation could not be guaranteed during the day", Mr Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary, says in the NAPO Newsletter.

"Members throughout the country have quite recently reported increases in the number of young people remanded in custody prior to trial, and a continued increase in the numbers finally sentenced to periods of youth custody."

That had led to overcrowding and chaos within the system, the newsletter says. Publication of NAPO's findings coincide with the results of a survey published by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. Returns from one-quarter of local authority areas in England and Wales say the number of juvenile offenders sentenced to custody increased by 21 per cent over the first half of 1984 compared with the second half of last year.

Mr Fletcher writes: "NAPO believes that it will soon be necessary for the Home Office to review the workings of the Criminal Justice Act and the sentencing powers of magistrates."

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Help relax your pain away

Patients watch lives being saved by tube technology

Patients yesterday told how they watched their lives being saved by a revolutionary technique which makes a surgeon's scalpel redundant in some operations.

The procedure, carried out under local anaesthetic at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, involves guiding very fine tubes along veins or arteries to the kidney, liver, brain, or any other part of the body.

Patients can watch the procedure on a screen as tubes seal arteries after stab wounds or road accidents. The system can also be used in the treatment of conditions such as ulcers. Kidney stones and gallstones can be removed, and blocked arteries in the limbs, the kidneys and the heart can be cleared.

Doctors guide the tube through a single, minute skin puncture to the trouble spot with the help of a £400,000 computer-controlled X-ray machine.

Professor David Allison, Director of Diagnostic Radiology at the hospital's Post-Graduate Medical School, said the tubes were "armed" with materials including tiny steel coils, plastic beads, inflatable balloons and even glue.

These were released into the body through the tip of the tube to stop bleeding, cut the blood supply to an organ or to clear blocked arteries.

People suffering from bleeding from many causes, including ulcers, injuries and weak spots along the walls of arteries could be treated by the procedure.

Minister on corpse charge

A Welsh Presbyterian minister has been remanded in custody to Risley remand centre Lancashire, until January 2, accused of three offences, including causing criminal damage to a corpse.

The Rev Emrys Owen, aged 62, a bachelor, of Maeston Close, Tywyn, Gwynedd, appeared before a special court in Tywyn on Christmas Eve.

He is accused of damaging a corpse between April 1976 and last Sunday in the parish of Tywyn, contrary to the Criminal Damage Act of 1971.

A second charge alleges that between the same dates in the parish of Tywyn, while at a place of worship, namely a chapel, he was guilty of indecent behaviour contrary to the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act of 1860, as amended by the Criminal Justice Act of 1967.

He was also accused of maliciously sending a letter on November 21 to a woman, threatening to kill her granddaughter, contrary to the Offences against the person Act 1861.

An application for a remand in custody was made by Inspector Iwan Roberts, and this was not opposed by the defence solicitor, Mr Meirion Wynne.

The magistrate, Mrs Cynthia Davies, granted legal aid. There was no application for reporting restrictions to be lifted.

Baby for actress

Sandra Dickinson, the television personality and wife of Peter Davison, the actor who formerly played Dr Who, gave birth to a 7lb 7oz daughter four minutes into Christmas Day at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London. She is their first child.

Victims of leak refuse cash offer

Re-Chem International has offered to pay a total of more than £3,500 in compensation to victims of a chemical leak at its plant near Southampton earlier this year, but the offer has not been accepted.

The leak, which the company admitted contained bromine, affected between 60 and 70 workers at a neighbouring chemical plant, Enichem at Hythe, Hampshire. Re-Chem was forced to shut down for a full investigation.

Victims suffered various symptoms, including stinging eyes, nausea, and vomiting. Lawyers fighting their case say that four people were quite seriously ill, and two still suffer side-effects from the leak on September 17.

Mr Campbell Kennedy, of the General Municipal, Boiler-makers and Allied Trades Union, said that the payment worked out at £30 a person. In most cases, the symptoms were not serious, but about four people were badly affected.

He emphasized that the figure put forward by Re-Chem's insurance company had still to be finalized, but it was part of an agreement that those affected would have to prove their illness. The four most seriously affected were expected to get more money.

Re-Chem specialize in the disposal of dangerous chemical waste. Its three plants in Britain have been the centre of controversy over the destruction, by incineration, of Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), which have been proved to have cancer links.

Burning PCBs is a risky business because at too low a temperature they can be converted into a deadly dioxin.



Members of the Quorn setting off for their Boxing Day meet from Loughborough Market Place yesterday. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Hunt protesters violate grave

By Joe Ravitch

An anti-hunt campaign group, the Hunt Retribution Squad, has claimed responsibility for desecrating the grave of the tenth Duke of Beaufort, a former Master of the Beaufort Hunt.

Yesterday, on the morning of the Beaufort Hunt's Boxing Day meeting, an anonymous telephone caller to the Press Association said a group of ten anti-hunt activists had tried to dig up the body of the Duke, on Christmas night and had

defaced the grave as a protest against "a very cruel man." The caller said "We are sick and tired of the way hunting is carried on murdering animals."

The cross over the duke's grave in the private family cemetery at the parish church of Badminton, Avon was stolen and anti-hunt slogans were sprayed around the cemetery.

"There has been an attempt to interfere with the grave; we think they were trying to get at

the body," a police spokesman said.

Members of the hunt taking part in the Boxing Day meeting a few miles away from the cemetery, expressed anger and sadness over the desecration. The eleventh Duke of Beaufort, who has succeeded his father as leader of the hunt, said the actions of the anti-hunt group were "disgusting and sick."

Major Gerald Gundry, Master of the Hunt, called the vandals "diabolical", and in-

sisted: "They say we are not nice people, but what do you call people who behave like this?"

Henry Hugh Arthur FitzRoy Somerset, the tenth Duke, had been Master of Horse for 42 years, and was renowned for his hunting activities. He died earlier this year at the age of 83.

The Hunt Saboteurs' Association said in a statement yesterday that it did not know who carried out the attack but

viewed it "in no way unfavourably".

In another field sports protest, about 30 demonstrators picketed a Boxing Day hare coursing meeting at Crebilly, near Ballymena, Northern Ireland. They were outnumbered by the police and there was no trouble in what over the past 15 years has become a traditional confrontation between coursing fans and their opponents.

Jaguar to reshuffle car dealerships

By Clifford Webb Motoring Correspondent

Jaguar has begun a reorganization of its dealerships in the United States and Europe which could cost the recently-privatized luxury car maker several million pounds in compensation payments to dealers it wants to dismiss.

Litigation has already started in the United States where about thirty dealers face the loss of their increasingly profitable Jaguar franchise. They have rejected "golden handshakes" believed to total more than £2.5 million.

In Europe, about 350 dealers have been told by Jaguar to make costly improvements to the standards of their premises and their staff. They have been given warning that failure to meet these minimum standards will lead to the withdrawal of their franchises.

It is believed that about a hundred dealers will be unable or unwilling to meet these conditions. Mr John Egan, Jaguar's Chairman, has been dissatisfied for some time with the quality of many of his overseas dealers.

Now, with record production of 33,400 cars assured for 1984, compared with 28,000 last year, and a turnover this year approaching £600,000 he feels

Loopholes in EEC rules for cheaper cars

The Consumers Association is planning to test new EEC rules designed to make it easier to shop around in Europe in 1985 to find the cheapest new car.

But the final version of the regulations, to be published in the new year, is so full of loopholes that motor industry sources believe it will have little effect on bringing prices in Europe into line.

Belgium and Denmark, two of the cheapest countries in which to buy new cars, with discounts of up to 30 per cent on British prices, could even be excluded.

The regulations will stipulate that the price for a similar model of car should not vary by more than 12 per cent from one country to another.

They are supposed also to make it illegal for a car dealer in Europe to refuse to supply a right-hand-drive car for a motorist to take to Britain, or to insist on extra money for doing so.

But guidelines for the regulations indicate that dealers in some countries could ask for a "supplement" on top of the list price for providing a car they would not normally sell.

Body found dumped on golf course

The hunt for a killer who battered and strangled a woman before dumping her naked body on a golf course was continuing yesterday.

The victim has been identified as Miss Deirdre Sainsbury, age 29. Her body was found near the sixteenth green at Denham Golf Club, Buckinghamshire, on Sunday, but detectives do not know why she was killed.

Police know that she left friends in Dulwich, south-east London at lunchtime on Saturday, but do not know where she was going or how her body came to be at the golf course.

A woman walking her dog saw what she thought was a tailor's dummy in a tiny copse near the sixteenth green, but paid little attention to it. A few hours later she returned and discovered the body, partly hidden under trees and in undergrowth.

Police are convinced the body was taken in a vehicle to the golf course. Forensic evidence indicates that it was dragged up a leaf-strewn mound and into the undergrowth.

Dr Stephen Cordner, Home Office pathologist, told Thames Valley Police that the woman had been battered about the body and head before she was strangled. When last seen Miss Sainsbury was wearing a fur hat, green nylon anorak, and dark green Army baggy trousers.

Peking holidays at cut price

China is allowing package holiday price cuts to help fill hotel rooms in Peking this spring. A seven-night holiday in Peking and Moscow is being offered by P & O Air Holidays from £395 as a complete package. The cut price is possible because the company is using the "diplomatic" air route to Peking via Moscow, filling usually empty seats.

The stopover in Moscow includes a visit of the Kremlin and Red Square.

Jenkin to review GLC theatre sale

By Joe Ravitch

The transfer by the Greater London Council of three theatres to the Theatres Trust will be scrutinized by the Department of Environment next week in a review process that could portend the future of all assets at present controlled by the council.

The department has insisted that the decision of whether to approve or reject the proposed sale will be made only "in the interest of the successor authorities."

Under the Paving Act of 1984, the council cannot transfer property or contract for goods or services worth more than £100,000 without the consent of Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The council owns more than 12,000 buildings and monuments in London, ranging from Covent Garden market to Cleopatra's Needle. Mr Peter Pitt, a council spokesman, claims that the sale of theatres had been planned for a long time, and is meant to "preserve London's cultural heritage".

Opposition council spokesmen have alleged that the sale of the theatres, the Garrick, Lyric and Lyceum, valued at £2 million, for £1 each is only the first of many attempts by the council to "dump" its assets in order to keep them under Labour control rather than let them revert to Conservative-controlled councils after abolition in 1986.

A new job as computer guard has been proposed by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, West Midlands, to protect its computer records.

The proposal follows a report from Mr Tony Williams, the council's chief financial officer, which has raised fears that computer hackers may soon be defrauding their rate bills by plugging into town hall systems.

The hackers, home computer owners who break the computer-user codes of big organizations, can infiltrate systems and take out or create records.

Mr Williams says that once

Post-1919 houses gain most value

Homeowners in the South are seeing the value of their properties grow nearly twice as fast as those in the North. Figures published in *Housing Market 84* by the Anglia Building Society show that average house prices in the North rose by 5.6 per cent during the year, compared with 10.5 per cent in the more affluent South.

London, the Home Counties and the South-east have shown

the biggest rises but the pattern has changed since 1983. "This year has seen a fundamental shift in the housing market. For the first time in 10 years, modern post-1919 resale housing has risen faster in value than new housing. It is also the only category to show an improvement over last year's percentage increases," Mr Peter Moreton, the society's chief surveyor, said yesterday.

"Pre-1919 property has un-

Spark from unguarded fire theory as 9 die

By Peter Davenport

Fire brigade investigators were yesterday still trying to pinpoint the cause of the Christmas Day blaze that led to the deaths of nine people, including four children, attending a family party.

One of the theories being considered is that a spark from an unguarded fire set alight wrapping paper from opened presents. Within minutes furnishings were blazing and giving off highly toxic fumes which killed the victims, almost all members of one family, as they slept.

The inquiry into the tragedy, one of the worst domestic fire tolls in the country for many years, is being headed by Mr Bob Graham, an assistant chief officer in the Greater Manchester Fire Brigade, and a member of a Home Office committee on fire prevention in the home.

The fire came just two days after Greater Manchester Fire Service had issued a warning about increased risks and dangers in the home during Christmas.

The fire occurred at the home in Massey Street, Bury, Lancashire, of Mrs Elizabeth Carroll, aged 47, she died, along with her daughters, Joanne, aged 15, and Mrs Laura Fry, aged 28, whose two children, Scott aged six, and Lindsey, aged three, were also killed.

Mrs Carroll's father, Mr Walter Jones, aged 76, and two more grandchildren, brothers Barry and Dean Gaunt, aged two and four, also died. The ninth victim Mr Darrell Smith, aged 24, was a friend of Mrs Fry.

Five other people were taken to hospital. They included Mr Brian Gaunt, aged 29, and his wife Deborah, aged 22, parents of the dead brothers. They were released after treatment.

Yesterday Mrs Carroll's son Frank, aged 25, and his friend Miss Beverly Holland, aged 17, were detained in Bury General Hospital, but were said to be improving. However, Mr Peter Jones, aged 50, Mrs Carroll's brother was still "poorly" in the intensive care unit.

Mr Douglas Galvin, the fire brigade spokesman, said: "It was just unbelievable that so many people could die in that house. The fire started in a ground-floor rear lounge and was confined to that area. There was very little damage from direct burning to the rest of the house but there were all the classic symptoms of modern-day furnishing giving off carbon monoxide fumes."

Brothers die

Two brothers died and their baby sister was left fighting for her life after fire swept through their home in Sherington, near Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, early yesterday morning.

Alexander Gadsby, aged five, and James, aged three, were found dead in their beds by firemen, who forced their way through choking black smoke. Their sister, Rebecca, aged 11, and mother and father leapt to safety from an upstairs window.

Sarah, aged 18 months, was rescued by her mother but was later said to be seriously ill in the intensive care unit of Milton Keynes General Hospital.

'Mad dog' who boasted about his killings

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Like many other men with awesome reputations, there is little to distinguish Dominic McGlinchey, jailed for life in Belfast on Christmas Eve for murdering the mother of a police officer.

At 30, his prematurely balding hair was streaked grey and the orange, white and green of an Irish tricolour, tattooed on his left arm, proclaimed his loyalty and identity.

Nothing unusual in that for a man born, one of seven brothers and four sisters, into a strongly republican family in Bellaghy, Londonderry.

But his desire for a united Ireland went far beyond the traditional hard-line republicanism endemic in areas like south Londonderry, where he was to take part in terrorist attacks with one of the most ruthless gangs spawned in the present troubles.

To the security forces, McGlinchey was a determined, ruthless and resourceful terrorist able to instil fear into subordinates, who dubbed him "mad dog". To detectives who have seen him at close quarters he is believed to be psychopathic.

Such was the anxiety of the police to capture him that in the mid-1970s they issued a wanted poster and in 1982 the RUC Special Branch operated in the Irish Republic in an undercover



Dominic McGlinchey: Jailed for life.

operation aimed at detaining him.

McGlinchey worked for a short period as a motor mechanic in his father's business before being interned for nine months in 1971. A year after his release, by then connected with the Provisional IRA, he was jailed for 18 months after being convicted of possessing rifles and ammunition.

Security forces believe that after his release he worked with one of the most notorious Provisional units, led by

The Irish Supreme Court decision this year to order the extradition of Dominic McGlinchey indicated that the judiciary in the republic was redefining what constitutes a political offence after 15 years during which the issue has bedevilled Anglo-Irish relations.

Extradition, or the lack of it, has caused great resentment among Unionists in the north, who have demanded it as proof that the republic is not a haven from which terrorists can plan and launch their attacks.

Throughout the present troubles, the republic's courts had refused to return people wanted in the north for alleged terrorist crimes once they said their action was carried out for political reasons.

Francis Hughes, who died on hunger strike.

The police suspect that McGlinchey was involved in the construction and planting of at least 30 bombs, in 20 shootings and 12 armed robberies.

In an interview in the *Sunday Tribune* newspaper, which McGlinchey later denied giving, he allegedly admitted involvement in about 30 murders, 200 bombings - including the Ballykelly discotheque bomb in which 17 people died - and giving a gun to a person

involved in the killing of three worshippers at a pentecostal church in South Armagh.

In the article McGlinchey allegedly said: "I like to get in close, to minimize the risk to myself. It's usually just a matter of who gets in first and by getting in close you put your man down first."

In 1977 the police in the republic had enough evidence to arrest him in Co Monaghan and he was jailed for four and a half years after being convicted of hijacking a police car, possessing a pistol and resisting arrest.

While in jail unhappiness with the political strategy of the Provisionals during the hunger strike made him leave them and join the Irish National Liberation Army, military wing of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

McGlinchey's luck ran out on St Patrick's Day this year. He was trapped by his wish to see his two young sons, who were spotted by the police in the republic and put under surveillance.

Inside the house where he was found was an arsenal containing 14 guns and 600 rounds of ammunition. Eighteen hours later he was in the hands of two RUC officers - the first person extradited from the south to Northern Ireland for terrorist offences.

Beating the IRA, page 8

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27th December, 1984

Christmas in the Holy Land

Uproar in the Knesset as MPs fight to eject visiting German Greens

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

A delegation from West Germany's controversial Greens Party visited the Knesset in Jerusalem yesterday and caused a five-minute uproar on the floor, including a scuffle between staid deputies.

When the Greens appeared in the visitors' gallery during a plenary session, two frontbench members of the right-wing Tzohar party rose from their seats and lifted a poster which read *Grünen-Braunen Raus*, linking the left-wing anti-establishment party with the brown-shirted Nazis.

While deputies shouted incoherently across the floor and the Speaker dutifully banged his gavel, Mr Tzohar Toubi, a Communist, tore a poster out of the hands of Miss Geula Cohen, his neighbour.

She tried to wrestle it back and her party associate, Professor Yuval Neleman, came to her aid. He and Mr Toubi

delegation's character and intentions. The Speaker declined to receive the Greens in the Knesset.

They visited it as guests of the progressive List for Peace, an Arab-Jewish party which supports the PLO and has two seats in the House. The Greens were refused facilities for a press conference on the grounds that they were guests of a party and not Parliament. Ushers were instructed not to switch on the television lights when they entered the hall.

Mr Yehoshua Matza, a Likud deputy, asked the Speaker to bar them from the gallery, claiming they were "anti-Semitic" and "anti-Israeli". Mr Shlomo Hillel, the Speaker, said the rules permit every MP to invite guests to the visitors' gallery and he saw no reason to make an exception.

Travel curbs on Kahane

From Our Correspondent, Tel Aviv

The Knesset in Jerusalem agreed by 58 votes to 36 on Tuesday evening to suspend Rabbi Meir Kahane's right under the Parliamentary Immunity Law to visit places out of bounds to the general public.

The American-born rabbi, who was elected to Parliament in July, had announced that he would visit his parliamentary immunity to enter Arab towns and villages to advise inhabitants to leave the Jewish state voluntarily or be forced out later.

He triggered a riot when he tried to enter Um-el-Fahm village on August 29 with his message. Police intercepted him to prevent bloodshed.

The action to deprive him of the freedom of movement granted under the immunity law was initiated by two deputies as a private member's bill. It was supported by the Attorney General, who has also drafted a Bill calculated to prevent Rabbi Kahane's re-election.

The Bill tabled in the Cabinet bans any party from running in Israeli elections if its programme supports racism or proclaims opposition to Israel's existence.

Still pending is a High Court suit filed by Rabbi Kahane's Kach party, charging police with violation of his immunity by preventing him from entering Um-el-Fahm.

In the Knesset's debate on Tuesday, Rabbi Kahane was denounced as a "Jewish Nazi" and "racist". He addressed the chamber, accusing "Hellenists" of the Labour Party of trying to close the "mouth of Judaism". He left the hall and did not return for the vote.

Some speakers argue that immunity privileges of deputies who sympathize with the PLO should also be restricted, but it was decided to separate the issues.

Parliamentary immunity, meanwhile, was invoked by five deputies of the right wing Tzohar party who organized a Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony in the heart of Nablus in the occupied West Bank.



Bethlehem's visitor

An Israeli soldier standing guard on a rooftop in the shadow of a church spire in Bethlehem, where pilgrims were gathering for Christmas festivities.

One surprise visitor to Bethlehem was Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, who went to the town on Christmas Eve with a special greeting from the Jewish people living in Zion (Moshe Brilliant writes).

His gesture, the first of its kind by a head of government since Bethlehem came under Israeli rule during the Six-Day War of 1967, was seen as part of Mr Peres' campaign to create new openings towards the minority communities.

● **SANTA SHOOED:** A toy-toting Santa Claus, a rare sight in Israel, was shooed off the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway by police who deemed him a traffic hazard (Reuter reports).

King Juan Carlos pardons 1981 coup plot officer

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

King Juan Carlos has granted a pardon to one of the former officers convicted of taking part in the unsuccessful coup of February 23, 1981, according to reports published here yesterday.

Acting on the request of the Government, the king pardoned the former Civil Guard captain, Vicente Gómez Iglesias, who had already served nearly two-thirds of his six-year sentence.

He was the first of the plotters to receive a pardon, which came after he agreed in writing to respect and abide by the post-Franco constitution.

He was notified of his freedom on Christmas Eve.

A similar confidential offer was made recently to other former military men involved in the plot. It was apparently in reaction to such an offer that the unrepentant leader of the attempted coup, former Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, was quoted as saying just before Christmas that if he had it to do all over again he would.

Although Señor Gómez Iglesias is the first to be pardoned, he is the eighteenth of the 27 plotters to be released. There were 15 whose sentences were less than three years each, including the only civilian in the case. All were freed after serving two-thirds of their five-year sentences.

Former General Milans del Bosch was sentenced to 3 years but is expected to be eligible for freedom next year when he turns 70; the maximum age under military regulations for a prisoner to be in custody.

Among others still behind bars are Major-General Alfonso Armada, once the King's most trusted military adviser, and Antonio Tena, the former Lieutenant-Colonel in the Civil Guard, who held the Spanish Parliament hostage. Both men are serving 30-year sentences.

Señor Gómez Iglesias was assigned to Spain's principle espionage agency, the higher Centre for Defence Information, at the time of the plot.

The general court martial which tried those accused of the revolt gave him a three-year sentence, but the Supreme Court doubled it when it reviewed the case.

Iran hits Spanish tanker in Gulf raid

Moscow (AP, Reuter) - Iranian warplanes hit the Spanish-registered tanker, *Aragón*, with two missiles yesterday in the fourth attack on shipping in the Gulf in five days, Gulf shipping sources said.

The 122,582-ton vessel was on its way to pick up crude oil from the Saudi Arabian terminal at Ras Tanura. No injuries were reported among the crew.

Yesterday the 139,820-ton Indian registered tanker, *Kanchenjunga*, attacked by Iranian planes on Christmas Day, was reported heading towards Dubai with its cargo of 290,000 tons intact.

Arkhipov sees China reform

Peking (Reuter) - The Chinese displayed their showpiece of economic reforms to Mr Ivan Arkhipov, visiting Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister, while the official news agency was linking the Soviet bloc's economic troubles to mismanagement and bad planning.

Mr Arkhipov, fresh from talks in Peking last weekend, was shuttled south to see the city of Canton and Shenzhen special economic zones, both pioneer centres for the Government's radical reform programme.

Six die in Tehran bombings

Tehran (Reuter) - Two bombs exploding within 12 hours in the Iranian capital left six people dead and about 50 injured and caused extensive damage to cars and buildings, the national news agency, IRNA, said yesterday.

The first bomb, concealed in a taxi outside a small hotel in a business district, killed six people and injured about 50 on Christmas night.

One person was reported injured by flying glass when the second bomb went off in an alley soon after dawn, yesterday.

Vehicles and buildings were damaged in the blasts. Police said the first bomb contained 20-25lb.

An anonymous caller to an international news agency claimed responsibility for the first explosion on behalf of the Mujahedin opposition group.

The Paris headquarters of the Mujahedin, however, denied responsibility and said afterwards it strongly condemned attacks on innocent people.

A news agency in Paris received another message claiming responsibility for the second blast on behalf of an exiled Iranian monarchist group, Arya.

The two explosions followed a bomb attack against an office of the Islamic Republic Party in Tehran two weeks ago and a car bomb outside the city's railway station in August, which killed 18 people.

A wave of bombings hit the Iranian capital three years ago when a bomb hidden in a lorry in Imam Khomeini Square killed dozens of people. Chief Justice Mohammad Hosseini Beheshti, President Mohammad Rajai and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar also died in bomb attacks.

Opposition chiefs freed in Karachi

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

The provincial authorities in the Sindh region yesterday withdrew police guards from the houses of three important opposition leaders in Karachi, ending their house arrest.

The leaders were each placed under house arrest for 30 days on Monday, when they had reportedly intended to hold anti-regime public meetings in the city, on the day before celebrations marking the birthday of the late Mr M A Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan.

Ten other opposition leaders who were rounded up on Monday were still said to be under arrest. Among the three people freed yesterday was Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a former Sind chief minister and president of the Sind branch of the banned Pakistan People's Party. He had been one of the late Prime Minister Bhutto's closest associates.

Meanwhile, General Zia, who in a controversial referendum last week won approval to remain in power for five more years as elected president, has reportedly invited the opposition to join hands to make Pakistan a model Islamic state.

General Zia, who on Tuesday met reporters in Lahore and addressed a select gathering, said the "landslide mandate" in the referendum cleared the way for him to take some important political decisions.

Ship blazes

Bremen (AP) - A steward died on a burning Cyprus-registered cargo ship, the *Blue Spirit* in the North Sea, but a Danish vessel managed to rescue the 16 other crew.

Clapton ban

Jakarta (AP) - Eric Clapton's "Cocaine" and "Sister Morphine" by the Rolling Stones have been banned from a New Year's Eve rock festival in Indonesia because they are said to promote the use of drugs.

Kidnap pay-out

Capri (Reuter) - An Italian hotel owner, kidnapped two months ago, was released after a payment of a \$200,000 ransom (\$200,000 ransom).

A la carte

Amsterdam (Reuter) - Animal rights protesters threw stink bombs and poured smelly liquids into restaurants in Amsterdam and elsewhere which included frogs, scorching steaks and pigeon and tortoise soup on their menus.

Cambodia rebel base held by Vietnamese

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Counter-attacks by Cambodian guerrillas failed yesterday to dislodge Vietnamese forces from a resistance base they captured on Christmas Day.

After shelling the base at Nong Samet, about 1,000 Vietnamese soldiers with a smaller number of Cambodian Government troops overran it and destroyed its buildings.

The Vietnamese used four tanks and armoured troop carriers. More than 70 people are known to have been wounded. A rebel officer said about 100 Cambodians were killed but that has not been confirmed.

With 62,000 civilians fleeing from Nong Samet, 100,000 refugees have crossed into Thailand since Vietnam's offensive began nearly six weeks ago. Before the offensive, about 250,000 Cambodian civilians supporting the anti-Vietnamese resistance were on the border.

There are 25,000 civilians packed and ready to flee from Ampil, headquarters of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, which has been shelled for several days and is expecting a further attack at any time.

Vietnam's aim, according to analysts, is to break up the border encampments which have been presented to the outside world as "Free Cambodia", and their population as supporters of the legal government of Cambodia, recognized by the United Nations.

Dispersal of the border people would also isolate the hated Khmer Rouge and leave it as the sole opponent of Cambodia's Vietnamese-backed government. This would make it increasingly difficult for other countries to continue to support the resistance coalition and recognize it at the UN.

Mr Stephen Solaz, the American Congressman, hinted at this over Christmas during a visit to Phnom Penh.

Chess saga plods on into history

Moscow (AFP, Reuter) - After a five-day interruption caused by the death of Dmitry Ustinov, the world chess championship battle resumed in the Hall of Columns where the Defence Minister's body had lain in state over the weekend.

But the thirty-fifth game lasted no more than 17 moves.

The titleholder is finding the one win he needs to retain his crown elusive but yesterday's draw, the twenty-ninth in the series, established chess history. It made the Karpov - Kasparov contest the longest ever in the world championship.

Thirty-fifth game
White, Karpov; Black, Kasparov

1-4-4	5-8-4	9-10-3	11-12-3
13-14-1	15-16-1	17-18-1	19-20-1
21-22-1	23-24-1	25-26-1	27-28-1
29-30-1	31-32-1	33-34-1	35-36-1
37-38-1	39-40-1	41-42-1	43-44-1
45-46-1	47-48-1	49-50-1	51-52-1
53-54-1	55-56-1	57-58-1	59-60-1
61-62-1	63-64-1	65-66-1	67-68-1
69-70-1	71-72-1	73-74-1	75-76-1
77-78-1	79-80-1	81-82-1	83-84-1
85-86-1	87-88-1	89-90-1	91-92-1
93-94-1	95-96-1	97-98-1	99-100-1
101-102-1	103-104-1	105-106-1	107-108-1
109-110-1	111-112-1	113-114-1	115-116-1
117-118-1	119-120-1	121-122-1	123-124-1
125-126-1	127-128-1	129-130-1	131-132-1
133-134-1	135-136-1	137-138-1	139-140-1
141-142-1	143-144-1	145-146-1	147-148-1
149-150-1	151-152-1	153-154-1	155-156-1
157-158-1	159-160-1	161-162-1	163-164-1
165-166-1	167-168-1	169-170-1	171-172-1
173-174-1	175-176-1	177-178-1	179-180-1
181-182-1	183-184-1	185-186-1	187-188-1
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213-214-1	215-216-1	217-218-1	219-220-1
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229-230-1	231-232-1	233-234-1	235-236-1
237-238-1	239-240-1	241-242-1	243-244-1
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317-318-1	319-320-1	321-322-1	323-324-1
325-326-1	327-328-1	329-330-1	331-332-1
333-334-1	335-336-1	337-338-1	339-340-1
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445-446-1	447-448-1	449-450-1	451-452-1
453-454-1	455-456-1	457-458-1	459-460-1
461-462-1	463-464-1	465-466-1	467-468-1
469-470-1	471-472-1	473-474-1	475-476-1
477-478-1	479-480-1	481-482-1	483-484-1
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517-518-1	519-520-1	521-522-1	523-524-1
525-526-1	527-528-1	529-530-1	531-532-1
533-534-1	535-536-1	537-538-1	539-540-1
541-542-1	543-544-1	545-546-1	547-548-1
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629-630-1	631-632-1	633-634-1	635-636-1
637-638-1	639-640-1	641-642-1	643-644-1
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669-670-1	671-672-1	673-674-1	675-676-1
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725-726-1	727-728-1	729-730-1	731-732-1
733-734-1	735-736-1	737-738-1	739-740-1
741-742-1	743-744-1	745-746-1	747-748-1
749-750-1	751-752-1	753-754-1	755-756-1
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797-798-1	799-800-1	801-802-1	803-804-1
805-806-1	807-808-1	809-810-1	811-812-1
813-814-1	815-816-1	817-818-1	819-820-1
821-822-1	823-824-1	825-826-1	827-828-1
829-830-1	831-832-1	833-834-1	835-836-1
837-838-1	839-840-1	841-842-1	843-844-1
845-846-1	847-848-1	849-850-1	851-852-1
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861-862-1	863-864-1	865-866-1	867-868-1
869-870-1	871-872-1	873-874-1	875-876-1
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925-926-1	927-928-1	929-930-1	931-932-1
933-934-1	935-936-1	937-938-1	939-940-1
941-942-1	943-944-1	945-946-1	947-948-1
949-950-1	951-952-1	953-954-1	955-956-1
957-958-1	959-960-1	961-962-1	963-964-1
965-966-1	967-968-1	969-970-1	971-972-1
973-974-1	975-976-1	977-978-1	979-980-1
981-982-1	983-984-1	985-986-1	987-988-1
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997-998-1	999-1000-1	1001-1002-1	1003-1004-1
1005-1006-1	1007-1008-1	1009-1010-1	1011-1012-1
1013-1014-1	1015-1016-1	1017-1018-1	1019-1020-1
1021-1022-1	1023-1024-1	1025-1026-1	1027-1028-1
1029-1030-1	1031-1032-1	1033-1034-1	1035-1036-1
1037-1038-1	1039-1040-1	1041-1042-1	1043-1044-1
1045-1046-1	1047-1048-1	1049-1050-1	1051-1052-1
1053-1054-1	1055-1056-1	1057-1058-1	1059-1060-1
1061-1062-1	1063-1064-1	1065-1066-1	1067-1068-1
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1085-1086-1</			

Grim future for Afghanistan five years after Russia invaded

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi

Five years ago today the Russians invaded Afghanistan, seized Kabul and installed Mr Babrak Karmal as their puppet ruler. For the invaders, and for the guerrillas fighting them, and for the West, the political and military essentials of the conflict have not changed much since 1979, and it is hard today to be anything but pessimistic about the long-term outcome.

The Russians are determined to remain and the *mujahidin* guerrillas are just as determined to drive them out. The country is ravaged and fifth of its people live as refugees in Pakistan.

The Afghan regime is unstable, the ruling party riven by murderous feuding between its Parcham and Khalq factions. The Afghan Army is, as ever, a demoralized force, replenished by desperate and unpopular conscription drives and drained by desertion.

Meanwhile, the *mujahidin* are unable to unite to offer a plausible government in exile. And this disunity, or independence, is reflected in Afghanist

an itself, where resistance groups cling to tribal loyalties more ancient than this young war, and pursue old quarrels as well as fight the Russians.

At the same time, the Russians take the long view and evidently believe that massive force and relentlessness will prevail.

This year was meant to be a military watershed. A Russian and Afghan offensive took and held the floor of the Panjshir valley, north-east of Kabul, a strategic area and the scene of many battles, but the offensive failed to deal a decisive blow to the guerrillas.

The *mujahidin* have been fighting back, overrunning army posts and forcing the withdrawal of Russian troops.

A familiar pattern can be expected to continue: some Afghan troops will go over to the guerrillas, and some *mujahidin*

will "surrender", join the militia, and then go back to the resistance, clothed, fed and armed.

In the past, winter caused a fall off in the fighting, but there are signs this year that many guerrillas are not hibernating. Conditions are tougher, but the weather limits the activity of helicopter gunships, the *mujahidin*'s great enemy, and the guerrillas are mounting attacks on power lines and supply convoys.

There has been an increase in attacks in and around Kabul in recent months. Bombs and rockets have damaged the airport, broadening installations, the Soviet Embassy and homes of senior Russians and ruling party members.

In September the Afghan airline's only DC10 was badly damaged by a rocket as it landed.

This is one of the changes in the war, the *mujahidin* now have some ground-to-air missiles. Naturally, they say they need more.

The question of arming the *mujahidin* remains delicate and crucial. Money from the United States and some Gulf countries is funnelled through Pakistan and, after going through a shadowy purchasing system, is translated into small arms.

If there is any hope of Russian withdrawal and it is slim, it would lie in a thaw between Russia and the West. Thinking about Afghanistan needs to go beyond withdrawal.

Five years on, the Russians are talking tough. They may, as Tass indicated recently, increase their occupying army of about 115,000. Losses are bearable and, unlike the Americans in Vietnam, the Russians are under no pressure at home. Meanwhile, the people of Afghanistan continue to suffer.

● **EX-KING'S MESSAGE:** The former king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, who lives in exile in Rome, sent a message to mark the anniversary of the invasion (Hazhir Teimourian writes).

The resistance was "bereft of effective outside help", but the Russians had failed to bring more than a quarter of a country under permanent occupation. But because of repeated bombardment of irrigation channels and dams, Afghanistan was threatened with catastrophe, he said.

The former king appealed to "the free world and especially neighbouring Islamic countries" to provide the resistance with effective support.

Sri Lanka drops Tamil peace effort

From Our Special Correspondent Colombo

President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka has suffered a severe setback with the collapse of his efforts to find a political answer to the Tamil secessionist problem.

Confronted by the objections of Tamil leaders, the influential Buddhist clergy, some of the ruling party and the main opposition party, the government yesterday dropped proposals to give Tamils a degree of devolved power.

For the Tamil minority what was offered was not enough. For the Sinhalese majority it was too much.

No one doubts that the president's chances of finding a political solution to the Tamil question, and ending the terrorist campaign, have thinned drastically.

Faced with some dissent in his own party and Cabinet, the president sacked Mr Cyril Mathew, the industries minister and a leading Sinhalese militant, who had spoken out against the devolutionary ideas.

Meanwhile, Tamil separatists who kidnapped two police inspectors yesterday demanded a ransom of £166,000 in gold. The Sinhalese officers were captured last week at the railway station in Jaffna, the chief city of the predominantly Tamil North.

Philippines opposition in unity deal

From Keith Dalton Manila

Philippine Opposition leaders yesterday pledged to support a single presidential candidate and agreed on a common programme, including the removal of US military bases and legalization of the Communist Party.

The attempt at unity was prompted by continuing reports that President Ferdinand Marcos, who is 63, may not survive until the 1987 presidential elections. It is an attempt to minimize the danger of a last minute scramble for power by Marcos opponents, who have been out of office for 19 years.

The nine-page agreement was signed at the suburban house of Mrs Corason Aquino, widow of the murdered Opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, by nine possible presidential contenders or their representatives, backed by influential business, church and professional groups.

Mr Salvador Laurel, president of the 12-party alliance, Unido, and former Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw, of the Liberal party, did not sign. The selection was denounced as arbitrary and elitist by Opposition MPs who had not been consulted.

The platform included respect for basic political rights, the drafting of a new constitution and an amnesty for 1,000 political prisoners.

Mandela excluded from Botha prison amnesty

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Fifty-four long term prisoners, including two elderly political detainees, are to be freed before the end of the year under an amnesty granted by President Botha, of South Africa as a gesture of Christmas goodwill.

Brigadier Erika Van Zyl, of the prison service said prisoners aged over 65 would qualify, but the amnesty would not apply to those serving life sentences. These include Mr Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC), who is aged 65 and has been in jail for more than 21 years.

She said the two political prisoners to be freed were aged 78 and 78 and had served most

of their seven and eight-year sentences.

In another development, two trained ANC guerrillas have been shot dead and four others arrested in an operation mounted by South African police and the Air Force, according to a statement issued in Pretoria on Christmas Day. Lieutenant General H. G. de Wit, the acting police commissioner, said the operation, which was continuing, had been launched in the remote Ingwavuma area of northern Natal between the southern border of Mozambique and Swaziland.

General de Wit said the operation began on December 14.



Hare Krishna wedding: The heir to the Ford fortune, Mr Alfred Ford, aged 34, whose spiritual name is Ambarish Das, married Dr Sharmila Bhattacharya, aged 29, in front of 1,000 guests in New South Wales yesterday.

Kadar walks the détente tightrope

Whatever the strain in relations at the present time between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, Hungary continues to promote the interests of détente by ensuring it continues a dialogue with the West. In the first of two articles, Richard Bassett, recently in Hungary, looks at the way Budapest's foreign policy expresses its desire to retain friendly relations with the West.

Hungary's party leader, Janos Kadar, has insisted on several occasions during the last two years that small European nations have an important role to play as a bridge between East and West. Since last year a political observers put the exact date as Vice-President George Bush's visit to Budapest in September, 1983 - Hungary has pursued an active foreign policy.

HUNGARY

Part 1

Even in the chill of last December, when the Warsaw Pact had broken off all arms control talks, Mr Kadar, in a visit to East Berlin, felt compelled to enunciate that there always remained "diplomatic possibilities of overcoming dangerous tensions". Since then, he has made his actions fit his words and no fewer than four Nato leaders have been his guests in Budapest.

Setting the pace was the visit of Mrs Thatcher in February, followed in April by the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Bettino Craxi, and two months later the West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl. Then it was the turn of Belgium's Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens. During every visit, the issue of improving East-West relations was high on the agenda.

Not surprisingly, this policy, similar in content but very different in style to that of President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, has drawn fire from the more hardline members of the Warsaw Pact. An editorial published earlier this year in the official Czech daily, *Rude Pravo*, accused certain unnamed allies of confusing national with international interests.

The attack was promptly countered by Mr Matyas Szoros, a Hungarian Central Committee member, who since the end of last year has been in charge of the country's foreign affairs committee. In a long speech reprinted in the official Hungarian press, he stressed the belief heard in many quarters of the Government that historical ties can always be pursued for the good of common interests and aims.

No better illustration of this attitude in practice was Hungary's position over the proposed visit to Bonn by the East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, in the autumn. While *Pravda* fired off volleys of criticism, attacking inter-



Mr Kadar: Role as East-West bridge.

German relations and accusing Bonn of revanchism, the Hungarian weekly, *Magyarorszag*, published a long article condoning what it called "broad dialogue" between East and West Germany.

Despite the frosty rhetoric from Prague and Moscow - some would say perhaps because of it - the cancellation of the East German leader's visit brought Berlin and Budapest together. Such was their mutual support during this period that it is no exaggeration to talk of a Berlin-Budapest axis in foreign affairs.

However unequivocally Budapest states its desire for détente, Hungarian officials are quick to assert that Hungary remains a loyal and reliable

member of the Warsaw Pact and the tension in the political climate is blamed exclusively on Washington. The point was emphasized by Mr Kadar during his recent visit to Paris, though at the same time the visit illustrated his country's equally firm desire to appear reliable to the West.

For Hungary, détente is not just a political interest but an essential prerequisite for economic stability as the Hungarians develop more and more links with Western business.

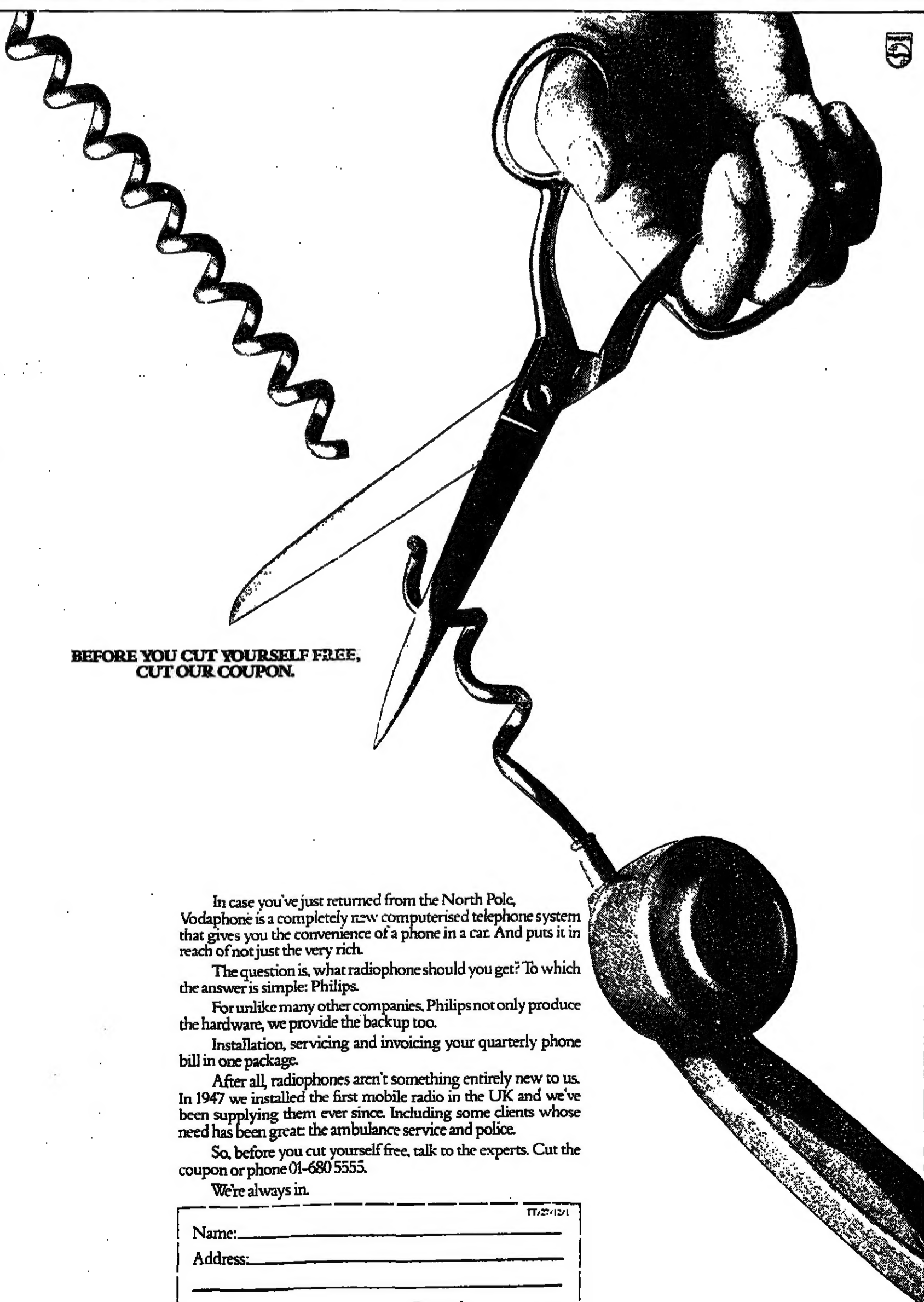
Such links are viewed with interest in the Kremlin, and the Russians have insisted in recent months that Budapest integrate the Hungarian economy more into the Eastern bloc, a development which would inevitably mean, as more and more goods were sent East, less trade with the West.

But, even under this pressure, the Hungarian Government remains convinced it will preserve its dialogue with the West on an informal, as well as formal basis. As the recent visit to London of Mr Szoros showed, regular meetings at an informal level have already developed to complement the state visits to Budapest.

Even if the chill is not taken off East-West relations in the near future, Hungary will continue to walk with care the elaborate tightrope its active foreign policy has erected since last year.

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SPECTRUM

Cavalier with winning ways

The Times Profile:
John Francome

When the media closed in on bucolic Fontwell Park racecourse in Sussex on May 28 this year, they had come to capture a rare breed of sporting hero in his finest hour. And their quarry did not disappoint them. John Francome, shaggy mane of curls billowing out beneath his jockey's cap, urged the 10-year-old gelding, Don't Touch, home to the 1,036th victory of his extraordinary career and so broke Sian Mellor's all-time record for the number of winners ridden under National Hunt Rules.

The comprehensive coverage reflected the fact that Francome is much more than a record-breaking jockey. This dashing rider who has a seemingly cavalier attitude to authority, a cover-girl wife and an enviable life-style is also highly charismatic, and his every move is news in a far wider field than racing.

Twelve months on from Fontwell, however, those same television and newspapermen will, it seems, be preparing to cover a less happy Francome landmark - his last ride. For, while dismissing newspaper reports that he will retire before the end of the current National Hunt campaign, Francome says that after 15 years in the saddle "the odds are heavily" that this season will be his last.

'He is remarkable. He can turn his hand to anything'

Francome is the first to admit that National Hunt racing has been more than kind to him, and he says he will greatly miss the sporting camaraderie of "the winter game". But now as ever with an eye to the main chance, he is turning to the more commercially rewarding and glamorous world of the Flat as a trainer.

Twenty horse boxes have already been built in the yard next to his magnificent stone house in Lambourn, which Francome built himself with the hands that also guide a raw novice chaser over his first fences; and he has agreed the use of some neighbouring gallops across the lush Berkshire downs which are the finest in England after Newmarket.

Fred Winter, the leading trainer and former champion jockey, who has retained Francome throughout his career, is in no doubt that he will make an equally spectacular success of his new role.

"He is a quite remarkable person. He can turn his hand to anything", Winter says. "One of the reasons we get on so well is because we rarely talk horses. We can drive to the races and talk for two or three hours about anything and everything. John is interested in every aspect of life."

As the son of a builder in Swindon, life for Francome began in a fairly unremarkable way. There was no family connection with horses, but through a childhood involvement with pony clubs he graduated to show jumping where his natural empathy with horses revealed itself.

He was chosen for the British junior show jumping team in 1968 and won a gold medal at the European championships. A glittering career lay ahead, but in that particular branch of sport considerable financial

backing is a prerequisite to success at senior level and Francome was too independent to allow his parents to sacrifice everything for him.

He left school at 15 to work in a car-body repair shop. But the lure of horses remained and 12 months later he obtained a job with Winter through a friend, and the hard labour of stable life began.

There was a fairytale beginning - victory on his first ride, Multigrey, at Worcester. He was brought to earth when his next mount landed him in hospital with a broken wrist.

Winter, whom many still regard as perhaps the finest jump jockey of all time, is certainly among Francome's greatest admirers, but he recalls that at the beginning Francome could not ride a decent finish. He had to be taught to blend timing, rhythm and fitness at the business end of the race, in other words jockeyship allied to his natural horsemanship.

Thereafter his rise was steady rather than meteoric. Baby-sitting and car washing helped to supplement his income. The biggest obstacle to Francome's progress in the early days was his weight, which suddenly climbed by nine or ten pounds. He remembers taking a liberal dose of the notorious diuretics before riding a horse called Osceola for Winter. Doubled up with cramp, he was virtually a passenger on the horse's back and the experience unnerved him to such an extent that he seriously considered giving it up.

Fortunately, a dietician helped him to stabilize his weight and the talent flowered. Other stable hands began to notice the stylish West Country lad. With more and more rides coming his way he rose to become champion jockey for the first time in the 1975/76 season. He has topped the list five more times since then and recorded his fourth successive century and his highest ever total last season when he rode 131 winners.

In 1978 Francome rode Winter's outstanding horse, Midnight Court, to win the blue ribbon of steeplechasing, the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Among many other big-race triumphs, Francome also won the 1981 Champion Hurdle on Sea Pigeon. It was his handling of this idiosyncratic veteran, leaving his victory swoop until the last 50 yards, that provided one of the most exciting demonstrations of what many see as his greatest asset - his uncanny judgement of pace.

Winter, however, is adamant



Saddled with success: Francome has adapted show jumping expertise to racing pace

that it is his placing of a horse at a fence that gives him the edge over his contemporaries. Francome, Winter says, adapted his horsemanship and show jumping expertise to racing pace quite brilliantly.

This is also borne out by the fact that in a sport where broken bones are an everyday occurrence, Francome has hit the ground about one, in twenty rides, about two-thirds the average casualty rate. Francome's ability to stay upright has brought him fewer injuries than many others - two broken arms and a dislocated shoulder being the worst of them.

Francome himself modestly puts this down to luck. "When you're lying on the ground after a fall it's just a question of whether one kicks you in the head or the back or manages to avoid you", he says. "I know that tomorrow I could break my neck and spend the rest of my

life in a wheelchair." Unfortunately, controversy has often ridden in tandem with success throughout Francome's career. In 1978 he was fined £750 for passing on information

'My style of riding can make it look like I'm not trying'

to the flamboyant bookmaker, John Banks. "I said nothing to Banks that I would not have said in front of the governor", Francome says unrepentantly. Winter, as always, stood by Francome without question. Last season was by far the worst in Francome's career as far as brushes with authority were concerned. There was nothing he can think of to justify the initiation of what many saw as some sort of vendetta.

"Hardly a day went by without the stewards sending for me," he recalls. "They had me in three times in one afternoon at Newton Abbot. If they'd taken the trouble to look after the race they would have seen the horses had done enough."

Francome was referring to the fact that the inquiries usually concerned his alleged failure to ride a horse out to the finish in the last 50 yards on a horse called Easter Lee and narrowly lost second place. He had no chance of catching the winner and the horse appeared to have given him up. But the fine was of £2,500, the maximum allowable under Jockey Club rules.

Hard on the heels of the Newbury affair, Francome had to negotiate another major obstacle. The Daily Mirror obtained tapes of phone conversations which allegedly proved Francome had broken the Rules of Racing. Francome won a High Court injunction to stop their publication.

Francome is unperturbed by disgruntled punters who give him a rough ride if they think he has ridden a bad race. "Punters always think the last thing that's at fault is their judgement", he says. "I don't give a damn what people in the stands say about me."

His frankness is often mistaken by outsiders for arrogance but inside the sport he is universally respected for his talent and well-liked, particularly by the other jockeys. So when National Hunt racing mourns the loss of a favourite son, the Flat can look forward to gaining one.

TRACK RECORD

Born Dec 13, 1952
Married: June 26, 1976, to Miriam Strigmer
First win Dec 2, 1970, on Multigrey at Worcester
1,000th win: Feb 29, 1984, on Osceola at Worcester
Set all-time record for winners under National Hunt Rules on Don't Touch at Fontwell Park, May 28, 1984
Biggest wins: 1978 Cheltenham Gold Cup on Midnight Court; 1981 Champion Hurdle on Sea Pigeon
Career record 1970/71-4 wins, 1971/72: 19, 1972/73: 21, 1973/74: 30, 1974/75: 70, 1975/76: 95, 1976/77: 88, 1977/78: 83, 1978/79: 94, 1979/80: 89, 1980/81: 105, 1981/82: 120, 1982/83: 108, 1983/84: 131.

think it will win the race, but I don't have to pick up my stick to know how tired they are."

John Jenkins, the prolific young Epsom trainer for whom Francome rode an unprecedented spate of winners at the start of this season, sees Francome's quiet style as his best attribute. "John doesn't punish a horse needlessly like some jockeys if it has no chance. They last a lot longer if he rides them."

One answer to the cynics is Francome's strike rate. Before this season he had a career record of 22.1 per cent winners from rides - better than twice the average. In the first half of

'I don't give a damn what people think about me'

this season he has already ridden the fastest 50 winners ever.

Apart from his style, which can make winning look breathtaking in its simplicity and contemptuous in its execution, it is Francome's outspoken attitude that has often been his downfall. After the succession of inquiries and fines, Francome spoke at the Derby Awards luncheon last December and, referring to the current craze for Cabbage Patch Dolls, said: "We've had Cabbage Patch Kids for years - we call them stewards". The remark brought the house down. A few weeks later Francome received a fine of unprecedented severity for a relatively trivial offence at Newbury. He dropped his hands in the last 50 yards on a horse called Easter Lee and narrowly lost second place. He had no chance of catching the winner and the horse appeared to have given him up. But the fine was of £2,500, the maximum allowable under Jockey Club rules.

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John Karter
Racing editor

moreover... Miles Kington

Exclusive - complete text of last night's BBC Christmas appeal. Scene: A TV studio. Close-up of Terry Wogan.

Wogan: Hello there, and consider yourself welcome back to "The BBC In Need", the programme that aims to raise the missing £7 million which we need just to keep the old place going. And I've just heard that the total you've pledged has gone up again! Drunken cheers off-screen. Thank you, gentlemen of the orchestra. And I'm going to ask Lumley to read out the new total.

Lumley: The new total is £457, Wogan.

Wogan: And that leaves a little over £6 million to get. Now! Here's a pledge from a viewer in Yorkshire who promises £1 million to see a programme "without Terry Wogan on it".

Could this be a certain R. Hartly, I ask myself? Anyway, your wish is granted.

Wogan rises and leaves the screen. He is replaced by Terry Hutch, Producer-General of the BBC.

Hutch: I don't think we actually made *The Thorn Birds* ourselves, but you get the idea. And to continue this work we need your money. Here's Professor Ivor Crewe with the swinge-meter to show you just where all the money goes.

Crewe: If the needle creeps past the £1 million, that means we have saved *Forty Minutes*. If not, it means a new programme called *Seven Minutes*. And we've just heard that a viewer in London has pledged half a

million if the Producer-General takes all his clothes off.

Hutch: You obviously still don't quite get the idea. *Drunken cries of "Get 'Em Off!"* Now let's go round the regions to see if there are any still left.

Cut to a studio labelled Radio Mid-West. A man dressed as a giraffe is sitting on a sofa. He speaks indistinctly.

Giraffe: Kerfuffle kerfuffle here at Radio kerfuffle magnificent effort kerfuffle no less than £7,000!

Hutch: That's great. And if you can get that £7,000 on a motorbike for Wood Lane at once, it will solve a lot of problems - we're running out of Beaujolais!

Lumley: And we've just had a pledge from a viewer in Basilidon to donate another £10 if I take my wig off. She removes her wig to reveal another wig.

Wogan: Still a few wigs to go, believe me, gents. Now I have with me a fabulous writer Spike Milligan, who many think should be the next Poet Laureate. Have you in fact written a poem for tonight, O Spike?

Milligan: Not exactly, but I thought I'd make one up as I went along. "I sent my money in a sack. Along to dear Auntie. Who gave one half to Wogan T., and half to Russell Hartly. Wogan: Ouch. And the total now is... £2,345,609, plus £50 if Robin Day agrees to take all his bow tie off.

Day: Certainly, if you call me Sir Robin.

Hutch: And we've just heard that "Sergeant Bilko" has been sold to Afghanistan Television for a hundred roubles an episode!

Cut to Clive James.

James: Sir Robin Day couldn't take his bow tie off, actually, as it contained a large microphone, and Robin Day without a microphone is like Esther Rantzen without molar.

Screams of laughter. Here's another extract from "The BBC In Need", showing that if Bruni has the best telly in the world, it also has the worst.

Cut to a group of Japanese, screaming in agony and humiliation as they are forced to watch "That's Life".

Hutch: So it's almost time to leave "The BBC In Need", but not before a message from a viewer in the North who wants to know if, for £100, we will

BODY QUIZ ANSWERS

Here are the answers to Monday's Body Quiz.

The full quotation is: "In the spider web of facts many a truth is strangled." Paul Eldridge from his book *Horns of Glass*.

The answer to the question is: "Emperor Menelik II. The dynamic and resourceful creator of modern Ethiopia was in the habit of nibbling a few pages of the Bible whenever he became ill. In December 1913, while recovering from a stroke, he ate the entire Book of Kings and died."

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: CAVE ART

Safety first

An international conference of specialists in Ice Age cave-art, held in November in Périgueux, France, laid particular emphasis on the problem of degradation, conservation and public access. Since Lascaux and, more recently, Altamira, were forced to close their doors to tourists for the sake of the art's survival, great progress has been made in the task of preserving this fragile and rare resource while allowing the public as much access as safety permits.

Certain caves, simply, can never be visited by the public: in some cases, water or narrow passages make access difficult and even physically dangerous; more often, conditions are such that the art is too vulnerable to accidental or malicious damage.

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John Karter
Racing editor

caused by the tourists but chemical analysis has shown that it was, in fact, water infiltrating from the mountain surface above, and it is believed that a change of vegetation led to this flow: pasture was abandoned to trees, and the resulting thick soil layer was a big reserve of water. The same had clearly happened at other periods of history, and traces of similar ancient water flows can be seen in the cave. Thus, careful watch is now being kept on the vegetation above decorated caves: for example, infrared aerial photographs of the hill of Lascaux show its thematic zones.

Lascaux is particularly at risk, since it is quite close to the surface. A forest fire on its hill came close to having, as a consequence, a number of other factors are causing concern, such as the forest clearance for new car parks built on the hill for easy access to Lascaux II.

Many figures have been deliberately being peddled with clay covered with graffiti, or even carefully obliterated. In 1982 one man was caught trying to remove - for his private collection - a bison-head from the magnificent sculptured frieze of Angles-sur-Anglin, now irreparably damaged. The worst problem is that of forced access into locked caves by those who feel they have the right to pass anywhere without permission: many sites, decorated or not, have their doors broken down with monotonous regularity, and not even steel gates and concrete are much help against the modern cutting equipment and explosives that are sometimes used by trespassers. In France there are now four surveillants de grottes, or patrolling guards.

In the past, speleologists tended to receive the blame for most of the damage and break-ins, but there is no reason to suppose they include more vandals than any other group. Indeed, archaeology has a tremendous debt to speleologists, who have made almost all the cave-art discoveries of recent years, as well as finding cave burials and other sites. Nevertheless, even with the best intentions, it is possible to do enormous damage to a prehistoric site if one is unaware of the correct precautions needed, and in the past speleologists have destroyed Ice Age footprints and other remains by not keeping to a single path. The answer, of course, is contact between prehistorians and cave-explorers, with explanation of the issues involved, and this is now the norm in cave-art regions.

It is necessary to provide alternative means of "visiting" the caves. There are several ways of doing so - in books, slides, television, video cassettes (as at Altamira) and films; the Centre of Prehistoric Art at Le Thot, Dordogne, provides admirable facilities of this kind, and huge advances have been made recently in the photography of cave-art. The art of the flame is also reaching new heights, and the prime example is Lascaux II (see The Times July 5 1984) which has already been visited by 350,000 people since it opened in July 1983. The technology which produced it is already almost obsolete, and even more accurate reproductions can and will be made. The use of infra-red distance meters, of lasers and of stereo-photogrammetry to produce minutely detailed records of cave-contours or of 3-D figures enables exact replicas to be made without even touching the surfaces in question.

Paul Bahn

Water watch

It is not only the vandals or the micro-organisms carried in by the visitors (as at Lascaux) which damage the art. When the water began to flow down the "Salon" of the cave of Niaux in 1978, carrying away paint and destroying figures, blame was first laid on condensation

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 529)

- ACROSS
8 Imprisonment (13)
9 Weapon (3)
10 Spanish Fascist (9)
11 Futuristic writing (3,2)
13 Refuse (7)
16 Looking at (7)
19 Nearby pub (5)
22 Completely (9)
24 Anger (3)
25 Wealth seeker (7,6)
DOWN
1 Essential elements (6)
2 Large prawns (6)
3 Wall screws (8)
4 Vendor (6)
5 Obtain (4)
6 Two-piece bathers (6)
7 Telltale (6)
12 Employers' alliance (1,1,1,1)
14 More than ample (8)
15 Ocean (3)
16 Confusion (6)
17 Bear (6)
18 Ship's kitchen (6)
20 Hole (6)
21 Subpoena (9)
23 Friend (4)

SOLUTION TO No 528

ACROSS: 1 Issue 4 Corsair 8 Stuff 9 Refusal 10 Downcast 11 Anon 13 Circumspect 17 Rose 18 Psychics 21 Jugular 22 Metro 23 Notable 24 Nerve
DOWN: 1 Inside 2 Squaw 3 Efficiency 4 Christmas tree 5 Raft 6 Arsonist 7 Relent 12 Spaceman 14 Insight 15 Trojan 16 Ashore 19 Inter 19 Flat

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BOOKS

Our improbable literary genius

Boswell one said that of all human arts he valued *distilling* the most. He was talking of booze, of course, like a true Scotchman; but the dictum might apply equally to biography. Forty years ago, almost everything essential to be said about Dr Johnson's dear Boszy could be summed up, or boiled down, by Peter Quennell in a masterly short study of precisely 65 pages. (It appears in *Four Portraits* - the other three were Gibbon, Sterne, and John Wilkes.)

Boswell's inordinate relish for life ("he tattered on the verge of complete sanity" said Wyndham Lewis), his hard drinking and easy whoring, his black hypochondria (depression or black dog), his exhibitionism ("glossy with conceit like some young and well-groomed animal"), his relentless courting of celebrities like Rousseau, Voltaire, Hume and the Corsican General Paoli, his humiliating struggles with his father Lord Auchinleck, his manic shuttling between Edinburgh and London (the low and high tides of human existence), and his lifelong harvest of Johnson's friendship - all these things were brilliantly captured and displayed in Quennell's small, liqueur-like digest.

Two amusing old foveys of the brisk New Right

Brian Martin

THE LONE CONFORMIST

By Roy Kerridge
Chatto & Windus, £10.95

These two autobiographies make a pleasant change. Their concerns are neither the New Left nor feminism; they are conversely about the New Right, even though Michael Wharton has been knocking about for a good few years. Both authors are *Daily Telegraph* writers, and both, what might be called, radical conservatives. They are certainly unorthodox. Kerridge attributes his "romantic conservatism" to the "idealism of Arthur Mees and Russian folk tales", and after his emergence from his well-meaning Communist family which forbade him to love God, Queen and Country, as a reaction Peter Simple's column *Way of the World* in the *Daily Telegraph* "became a never-failing source of comfort, reassurance and strength".

Michael Wharton, born Nathan, is Peter Simple, and describes himself as a "Tory

Richard Holmes on Boszy's ascent to the heights of Parnassus

JAMES BOSWELL: THE LATER YEARS 1769-1795
By Frank Brady
Heinemann, £20

form a biography of over twelve hundred pages. How has Boszy stood up to this apothecary, or elephantiasis? Has his specific gravity increased, or been diluted? Professor Brady's materials are superb. Though we miss Boswell in his first, fine, careless rapture (he is 29 at the outset, married, and inconspicuously making his way at the Scottish Bar as "Cornea Boswell"), we catch up with him at many of the intoxicating highlights of his checkered career (though no tartan could cover the pattern). There is his tour to the Hebrides with Johnson; his affair with the dangerous Mrs Rudd; his election to the Club; his characteristic defence of the sheep-stealer John Reid (Boswell gets drunk with the jury that condemns his client, and then plots a hare-brained scheme to rescue him from the gallows), and above all there is the actual writing of the *Great Life of Johnson* which took most of six years: "there will be many foolish lives first," King George encouraged him, "do you make the best." Royal advice for all biographers.

Throughout, there is the irrepressible Boswell of the *Journals*. He solemnly pledges sobriety under "a venerable Devonshire yew tree" - not more than six glasses of wine at a



time. He fantasizes to friends about his coming greatness: "Monster! I ne me manque que la base. Je suis déjà la statue!" He tangles himself in increasingly ludicrous sexual escapades, told like notes for a One Act play: "Tedious delay waiting for the door to open. Man in closet. Wonderful presence of mind: bade him to be to it. Man off. Going, but allured back. Twice." (Something of Mr Jingle there?)

Yet it has to be said that Brady's powers as a biographer (rather than those of a scholar) are insufficient to orchestrate these vast materials either dramatically or psychologically. His book is often diffuse in texture, repetitive, and episodic. Boswell is always getting out of hand. "It is the biographer's despair," Brady writes in a revealing aside, "that Boswell's fluctuations in mood so faithfully resemble those

found in many other lives". But of course it is precisely this that should be made the ground for the biographer's triumph. Boswell is indeed a kind of Everyman, and here lies the root of his literary genius.

Instead the character-analysis is fretfully transatlantic: "Marriage had focused his goals", we are told at one point; and at another we are advised earnestly that "Anyone, of course, can confer a moral mark on Boswell, but it seems more useful to consider what parts alcohol and sex played in his psychic economy." Och, dear.

Brady is always more at home commenting on a text, rather than recreating the experience that originally produced it, better at the foot of the tour, more over the central elegiac theme that runs so strongly through Boswell's later years - not merely discussions of death, fame, immortality, and vanity (those great perennials), but the actual deaths of Hume (1776), his father (1782), Dr Johnson (1784), and his beloved and ill-treated wife, Margaret (1788) - these are not properly linked to the titanic, life-giving act of creation that crowns Boswell's career. We wonder, in short, how bawdy, lovable Boswell really did become the author of a moral epic, comparable to *Paradise Lost*, or *The Prelude* (which is what I believe the *Life of Johnson* is).

Nonetheless, it is very difficult to give final judgement against the enterprise. Brady's book provides a great, if fluctuating pleasure, it is a fine hoghead of learning; it is both touching and fruitfully funny (more so perhaps than Prof. Fortie's volume); amateurs of Augustan London will adore it; and students of both *Life* and *Literature* will admire the authoritative Chapter 17 (really a detached essay) on Boswell's place in the history of biography.

And certainly James Boswell is not diminished by this mighty collective effort by the learned doctors of Yale who have been in fact a sort of closest Dickens of the eighteenth century. But what we need now, more than anything, to enshrine his "preference on Parnassus" is surely a good, single-volume selection from the *Journals*, to join the *Tour* and the *Life*. That would be a true alembic mon.

How to be hilarious against all the odds

Anthony Masters

A SHY PERSON'S GUIDE TO LIFE

By Michael Bentine
Granada, £6.95
SO MUCH LOVE
By Beryl Reid
Hutchinson, £8.95

(naturally) comedians.

Beryl Reid's autobiography, too, has all the marks of her individual tone of voice and, few are fatter than her matter-of-fact précis of the outrageous events in *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, almost as though standing in a corner-shop reporting the week's gossip. No wonder she took to Mrs Candour like a duck to water. And periodically the cloying succession of compliments every time a fellow-actress or actor is mentioned (why must they do this?) is halted for a barely perceptible back-hander. Very little checks her ebullience - not the disappointments of her private life (treated with firm brevity), certainly not

audience outrage during the pre-London tour of *Sister George*, least of all her early ordeals in provincial variety: playing Bo-Peep with live sheep in Swindon, taking off her greasewood with Trex, or having her knickers eaten by rats at the Palace, Atteliff.

Any doubts about the cat in Langley that acted as a sheep-dog or the drunken leading lady singing *Ave Maria* in Blackpool are stilled by the thought that odd things probably happen naturally to someone with such a sense of the ludicrous. Her account of getting lost backstage at the National and suddenly arriving on stage in *Tamburlaine* (a lot of people in gold, and I didn't recognize any of them) is classic.

My one big complaint is that there is no index: I can remember so many good things I cannot now find. But apart from odd details like confusing Beryl's role in *The School for Scandal* and captioning as the Duke of York's Theatre what is plainly the St Martin's, the editing is mercifully more alert than in Michael White's new memoirs. And these cover a wider range than most. How many people suppose that Marlene with her "cer-rings" or Monica in *Educating Archie* would adapt ill she is now mainly thought of as a serious comedienne? Or that a dyslexic girl would become as much of a well-loved household name as a half-Peruvian boy with a stammer?

The season for cold turkey

FICTION

John Nicholson

EDISTO

By Padgett Powell
Secker & Warburg, £7.95
FIVE REHEARSALS
By Susanna Johnston
Chatto & Windus, £8.95

MARGE

By Kitty Fitzgerald
Sheba, £6.95, paperback £3.75

It takes a lot to impress Simons ("Pronounce it Simons, I'm a rare one-Simons"), or so it seems to the world. We know better, because his is the first-person voice, which talks us through this jaunty saga about growing up in the seedy South. Certainly the boy's irregular rearing in a beach-hut ought to provide him with plenty of colourful material if he ever realizes his ambition to become a writer. It's an aspiration fuelled by his mother, known to all and sundry as The Duchess, on account of her

imperious manner when in her cups, but discouraged by his father (The Progenitor to his preconscious offspring), who would be happier to see his son carrying a baseball bat.

Edisto is a funny book. Not rib-tickling, but consistently droll. Mr Powell has been touched by Twain and Runy. But he's an original, too, nowhere more so than in the extraordinary ploys.

Drink pales into insignificance as a demon when set alongside the little green devils devouring the heroines created by Susanna Johnston and Kitty Fitzgerald. Miss Johnston's Vanessa needs every one of the five rehearsals of the book's title before she can break her sexual infatuation with an appalling film director, while Miss Fitzgerald's eponymous Marge simply can't stop an obsessive interest in her neighbour from reaching its sickening conclusion. Neither book is particularly well-written or constructed. Both however throw some light on an emotion which does not recognize a season of goodwill.

Iain Elliot

THE BURDEN

By Vladimir Rybakov
Hutchinson, £8.95

ordered. The tough and cynical Maltsev argues with the poetry-reading idealist Svezhnev, who condemns Maltsev for wanting to emigrate, abandoning the fight for a democratic Russia. This debate continues spasmodically amid scenes of bloodshed, fornication, tragedy, and comedy. Invading Chinese are slaughtered by a rocket strike. Soviet soldiers are murdered by marauding Chinese or die in pointless accidents. Teenage recruits escape from the harsh military routine in friendly comradeship.

Maltsev is sickened by it all. The "burden" is the despotism which rules the Soviet block; which produces a tyrannical officer "fouling up the morning like a dead mouse in a loaf of bread", which makes Maltsev himself treat his men cruelly and in the end betray his friend Svezhnev.

This powerful book, smoothly translated, does not end Maltsev's story. Rybakov emigrated in 1976 and is now a journalist in Paris writing for English Russian publications. A native bringing Maltsev to France, has already appeared in Russian, and Rybakov doubtless found material for further episodes when interviewing Soviet defectors in Afghanistan. The burden is no lighter.

Juan in Scotland: the writer as pro

Allan Massie

ERIC LINKLATER
By Michael Parnell
John Murray, £16

The Scott Monument in Princes Street stands over Waverley, a railway station named after a novel; Compton Mackenzie and Eric Linklater used to figure in advertisements for a brand of whisky (Black-and-White, I think; it isn't mentioned in this biography). These may seem curious ways of honouring writers, but they are at least a form of recognition. Certainly Eric Linklater was for most of his life one of the better known figures in Scotland. Yet he was never given quite the degree of serious professional regard he thought he deserved. As his younger son Andro Linklater writes in a foreword to this very welcome biography, "When I was a child in the 1950s, my father's reputation as a writer had passed its peak... his great fame had come in the 1930s and 1940s with a succession of best-selling novels beginning with *Juan in America* and ending with *Private Angelo*." Thereafter his stock slumped. It became quite usual to find a Linklater novel perfunctorily dealt with by reviewers at the tail of a batch of fiction.

Yet in many ways the novels he wrote in the Fifties and early Sixties represent the peak of his achievement. They are more controlled than his earlier fiction. Some of the froth has evaporated. The books are closer to real, frequently grim, experience. Wit is not absent - there are few wittier novels than *Position at Noon* (1958) and *The Merry Muse* (1959), of which Evelyn Waugh wrote: "what a treat it has been. I think it your best novel, ingenious, astute, strong and funny. What boobies most of the reviewers are." But for all that, in these later novels, "the granite", as Graham Greene said of Stevenson, "was coming through".

Linklater accounted for the decline in his popularity and the unwillingness of reviewers to take him seriously by his own disinclination to repeat earlier successes and by the variety of his subject-matter and variation of style he employed. Perhaps he insisted too much on this; there is a unity of tone in his work, just as there is in Waugh's. It comes through even when he is writing down his vocabulary as in *The Men of Ness* or speaks through a defeated timid persona as in *Roll of Honour*.

Perhaps his insistence that he was essentially a craftsman did him no good. It has been unfortunately the case in the last 30 years or so that novels which can be taught, that is to say, novels which provide material for discussion, have been more highly valued, especially by the academic critics who play such a part in the forming of reputations, than novels like Linklater's, which are lived, all of a piece, and finely shaped. Mr Parnell's sensible examination of the novels may help to revive interest.

Another factor in the decline of his reputation emerges strongly. Linklater was unfashionable in his admirations: his heroes included soldiers like Wavell, Alexander and Bernard Fergusson (Lord Ballantrae). Though he had himself served in the trenches (and been wounded in the First World War, and though he knew the waste and cruelty of war, he never quite lost a romantic 1914 response to it: war brought out the qualities he revered - courage, gallantry, humour and the capacity for friendship. Here again a comparison with Waugh can be usefully made: neither was in tune with Hooper's world.

On his own admission also, he was "subject to a weakness which has betrayed my fellow-countrymen. I have not always been able to find, in my writing, a total satisfaction for my natural appetites." This has contributed to his devaluation, unjustly. It is, as he suggests, a Scots characteristic, true of Scott, Stevenson, Byron, Norman Douglas as well as Linklater. But I am not sure that it isn't better for the novelist to be a man of the world and a man of affairs than to shut himself up in his ivory tower. It needn't show lack of respect for his art. It didn't in Linklater's case; he was a writer through and through.

Mr Parnell's treatment of the books is thorough, fair, and frequently enlightening. Though he is a Senior Lecturer in English he eschews barbarous jargon. The result recalls the sympathetic and sensible way in which Christopher Skyles dealt with Waugh's fiction in his biography.

The name of Waugh keeps breaking into this review, and that is fair enough. They were friends; they took a very similar view of writing, they were similar in character. Both liked to play the crusty and intractable colonel, building up a character part that served as a carapace to conceal insecurity and a nature that could easily be hurt. In both it became apparently natural. Both alternated between high spirits and depression. Both drank heavily, but not destructively. Both led a vagrant youth, married a much younger wife and settled in the country. Both became sojourners rather than bureaucrats in war.

The chief merit of Mr Parnell's biography, apart from the mass of information he has given us, is that it brings the man Linklater to life. His selection of quotations is judicious and his judgement generous. It is a good biography because he likes and admires his subject without being blind to his faults. He has had, it is clear, full and unselfish co-operation from Marjorie Linklater and her children. He gives a good picture too of literary life before the advent of the mass-media changed everything. I could have done with more details about sales and money, even so, it is extraordinary to reflect today that Rupert Hart-Davis printed 20,000 copies of a collection of short stories, *Sealskin Trousers*, and was a bit disappointed to sell only 16,000 in four years.

Whatever happened to Jane?

HISTORICALS

Philippa Toomey

JANE AUSTEN IN AUSTRALIA

By Barbara Ker Wilson
Secker & Warburg, £8.95

MANSFIELD REVISITED

By Joan Aiken
Collins, £7.95

Jane Austen led a quiet life in the country, the big points being visits to Bath - or so we have been led to believe. Barbara Ker Wilson's engaging fantasy is based on a few solid facts and real people. In 1799 Jane Austen's aunt, Mrs Jane Leigh Perrot, was arrested for shoplifting in Bath, and stood trial for what was then an extremely serious offence, meriting a sentence of transportation to the penal colony in Australia.

Mrs Leigh Perrot was acquitted. But what, suggests the author, if her husband, having resolved to accompany her, were she to be found guilty, decided to visit this strange and new foreign land, taking with them their niece Jane, who was suffering from the end of an unhappy love affair?

We do know, from hints, that Jane Austen fell in love with someone who appeared to be entirely suitable, but he died. Here we have the story of her romance, the object of her affections being a clergyman in the Tiltney rather than the Collins tradition.

The lengthy and dangerous voyage, the savage and uncomfortable society, the rawness of the new town of Sydney, the dreadful climate and the possibility of a convicting - all are adroitly contrasted with the amiable (and real) people who lived there, and who might have made the Leigh Perrots welcome.

Fanny Price was, most unaccountably, Jane Austen's favourite heroine. Joan Aiken, in *Mansfield Revisited*, has sensibly bundled the newly married Edmund and Fanny off to the West Indies to look after the family estates (Sir Thomas Bertram having died). We are left with Fanny's sister Susan, making a much better job of coping with Lady Bertram, and dispensing a great deal more cheerfulness.

If there was almost too much action for Jane Austen in Australia, Joan Aiken has the atmosphere at Mansfield exactly right. Almost nothing does happen in Austen novels, there is a ball, a picnic, love, and marriage. The language has the right echoes and overtones, and the whole is delightful. Whatever happened to those nice young people in *Northanger Abbey*?

● Marguerite Blakepey (wife of Sir Percy, alias The Scarlet Pimpernel) tells her own story in *Daughter of the Revolution* by C. Guy Clayton (Macdonald, £8.95), a memoir setting the record straight. Rapes, deaths, duels, triumphs on the stage, undercover work for Talleyrand (one of her many lovers), dramatic escapes and in a not very enthusiastic dwindling into the wife of Sir Percy.

Reflecting on the significance of Christmas, a wise man once remarked that it was a fine time for poultry farmers. In literature as in life, it seems, since the central figures in this week's fictional offerings are all into cold turkey. So go easy on the brandy butter, and ponder for a while on the unseasonal subject of our addictions and obsessions.

The fix in Paget Hall's delightful first novel is that Good Ole Boy Al K. Hall. Most of the characters relaxing in Dresser's Rexall, popular watering-hole in downtown Bluffton, surely ought to be somewhere else, doing something more creative than sinking their beers and their bouzou. Take pumpman Clyde, for example, he really got nothing better to do than struggle out of the harness of his wooden leg in an attempt to get a reaction of Simons Manigault? And what about Simons? Shouldn't he be down the road at Bluffton Elementary? What's he doing in a bar anyway? The kid's only twelve, for Chrissake!

This is a brutal book: but one that could help the reader "understand the Russians". The novel is based on Vladimir Rybakov's grim personal experience of military service in the freezing wastes of the Ussuri region at the height of the Sino-Soviet conflict. The author like his central character, Junior Sergeant Maltsev, was born in France of Russian parents who returned to the USSR after the war with their two young sons. The reality did not match their dreams.

For Maltsev, expelled from university for his dissident views, France is a distant vision of freedom to which he is determined to return. The blend of discipline, indoctrination, and genuine patriotism makes them ready to fight when

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JAPAN DIARY

David Watts

Krisumasu for all

Tokyo Christmas is one of Japan's more successful imports. Almost devoid of religious meaning except for the tiny Christian minority of less than 1 per cent of the 120 million people, it's none the less a festival that neither Scrooge nor the Archbishop of Canterbury could seriously quarrel with. Scrooge would have been delighted by the enormous amounts of money that are made and no true Christian could object to the real joy that Krisumasu creates. Whether or not its full religious import is understood by the millions of children who are as familiar with Santa as those in Europe and the United States.

Christmas really "arrived" in Japan in a spontaneous outburst of merry-making in the Ginza, Tokyo's entertainment area, on Christmas Eve of 1953. That was the year that people had something special to celebrate, even though it had nothing to do with Bethlehem. The government had just issued a white paper decreeing that the wartime era of shortages and starvation was over. Japan was officially back on its feet.

Family flavour

One reason for the growing popularity of Christmas is that it fits in neatly with a purely home-grown season of celebration: year-end office parties called *bonenkai*. *Bonenka* literally translates as "forget-the-year party" and most of the male participants set out to do exactly that, to the horror and fascination of their delicate and demure secretaries.

Lately, though, Christmas has taken on more of a family flavour. The transition took place as fathers, heading towards their traditional *bonenkai* pleasures, would stop and buy a Christmas cake. This year it is estimated that bakeries have produced something like five million Christmas cakes along with countless Christmas ice-creams and, for some reason, boxes of fried chicken which are heavily promoted on television to the jingle of bells.

It had to happen, Japan this year enjoyed its own officially designated *Santaland*. The first outside Santa's Northern European homeland, it is in the small town of Hida on the northern island of Hokkaido. Santa-San no doubt felt at home there. Hokkaido is on the same latitude as Siberia and gets a fair share of snow.

Having a ball

Last night the ladies and gentlemen of the British embassy were nursing their bruises after their customary Boxing Day soccer games. There are separate games for both sexes and a good time is generally had by all. The whole thing serves as a warm-up for a much more serious five-a-side contest on New Year's Day.

This year there will be three embassy teams, two teams from the Hongkong and Shanghai and Barclay's banks and a sixth team rather impudently called a "mishmash", but which none the less usually turns in a pretty good performance.

Sloping off

As well as marking the beginning of the year-end holiday season, Christmas also marks the start of the skiing season. This year its advent has been attended by Shinto and Buddhist ceremonies beseeching the gods to send snow in time for the climax of the holidays over new year, when Japan virtually closes down. After weeks of snow-free slopes their prayers, have been answered. Heavy snow was falling in the Japanese Alps and in the resort areas along the Sea of Japan by Christmas Eve.

Choral practice

Geisha girls are getting into the Japanese spirit of things by joining in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. They have joined a chorus of about 5,000 which will perform the work - Japan's favourite piece of western music - to mark the opening of a new arena for the national sport, sumo wrestling, next year. Because they work in their clubs in the evening, where a few hours of relaxation can cost a corporation president anything from £300 up, the geisha must practice in the afternoons. Few can read music, let alone speak German, so it's a mammoth task memorizing the whole thing. Still, it gives them a new party piece to perform for their customers.

Box and box

The Dickensian image of Christmas is always good for British exports, from fabulously-priced boxed bottles of Scotch to choice teas and chocolate which sell for up to three times the British price. But it has been a good season for British television works as well. Recent weeks have seen the showing on prime time of *A Voyage Round My Father*, from John Mortimer's autobiographical work of the same name, and *A Christmas Carol* starring Albert Finney and Dame Edith Evans.

The week before Christmas Nagisa Oshima's superb film, *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, set in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Java in 1942 and starring David Bowie, was shown on television, coming closer to the message of Christmas than a dozen sermons. One would like to think that was why it was scheduled. Most likely it was because it had that magic word in the title.

Will Rajiv ravage the pundits?

With first results of the Indian election due tomorrow, David Butler considers the chances of a landslide for Mr Clean

New Delhi
Last Monday, for the first time in a life of election-watching, I saw votes being stolen, crudely and brutally. A sophisticated Delhi journalist had taken me 40 miles north to the Bagpat constituency of Charan Singh, India's prime minister for a brief period in 1979. We visited the five polling stations at random, and in four the fraud was blatant.

In one, a Charan Singh supporter was marking the ballot papers of the illiterate villagers. In a second the local headman, from the locally dominant Jat caste, sat intimidatingly by the booth and inspected the ballot papers of the overawed Harijans.

In a third we learnt that the Harijans had been told not to come: "Others would vote for them." In a fourth there were, allegedly, poll watchers for the other parties but on investigation all had switched to Charan Singh. The police and the polling officials did nothing.

Vote-stealing - like the oppression of the Harijans - is a disagreeable sight. Yet what we saw was not typical and, indeed, some of the Bagpat districts are to vote again following protests. I met many journalists who had scoured Delhi and its surroundings in search of a poll-rigging story without finding anything but free and open voting. And their experience is certainly far more representative than mine.

India is the largest democracy in the world. And it is a country that seems imbued with a universal zeal for politics. Even when an election is not in progress half the stories on the front pages of the Delhi newspapers are about party splits, cabinet crises, nomination rowns and state elections. Politics, like cricket, is a major spectator sport.

People who write premature

obituaries for democracy in India fail to realize how difficult it would be to eradicate their enthusiasm for voting, the demand to express a popular verdict. The zeal can be carried to excess, as I saw so vividly on Monday. But all over India patient queues waited outside the polling stations. Tomorrow's votes will be counted, for the most part, without controversy.

It is pretty clear that those votes will confirm the leadership of a 42-year-old airline pilot whose youth, novelty and remarkable dynamic heritage have catapulted him to an unassailable position. Rajiv Gandhi has everything going for him. There is sympathy for his mother's death and appreciation of his "Mr Clean" image in a society where political corruption is endemic. There is a hopeful belief in a new start and in his pursuit of efficiency.

Rajiv represents both continuity and change. In a fissiparous country he seems to stand for the unity of India, combining all the virtues of the old regime with none of its vices. He also draws in a negative vote as the lesser evil. The opposition is a tired group of discredited politicians, lacking any clear issue or alternative ideology. Congress (I) may be equally tarnished but he personally seems uncontaminated. His all-India appeal reaches out even in this diverse, illiterate population.

Opinion polls have offered conflicting evidence about the outcome. But the largest - and the only one to offer India-wide figures - suggests that Congress (I) will get 53 per cent of the national vote and secure 366 of the 510 seats at stake this week.

Since the Congress Party has never before touched 50 per cent, not even in its heyday in the 1950s, or won more than 357 seats, this prediction excites incredulity among sophisticated political observers. After all, before her death Mrs Gandhi looked in serious danger of defeat. But the poll prediction could end up being an understatement, for in the 20 days since the poll was taken the tide, it is generally agreed, has continued to flow Rajiv's way.

There are those who reckon however, that any Indian opinion will exaggerate support for those in power by 5 to 10 per cent, because of timidity or deference.

Political commentators have been shy of predicting a landslide, but the first-past-the-post system produces them all the time. Consider 1906, 1931, 1945 or 1983 in Britain: 1958 or 1984 in Canada, 1966 or 1975 in Australia. Consider indeed 1977 and 1980 in India. No one anticipated the magnitude of the majorities that were achieved.

It is indeed clear that Rajiv Gandhi's triumph will not be complete. In West Bengal the very conservative Communist Party which rules the state will also keep most, if not all, of its Lok Sabha seats. In Andhra Pradesh the eccentric film-star premier, N.T. Rama Rao, will ensure the election of a number of his Telugu-speaking followers. In a scattering of very personal contests, independents and others will defy the Congress sweep. It was hard to imagine the voters of Bagpat reacting to the issues discussed in sophisticated Delhi. In the villages that we visited, caste and custom must surely prevail over national trends.

Tomorrow evening it will not be as easy as in Britain to guess the final outcome from the first result. But when a landslide is in progress, it does not take long to hear the thunder. We shall soon know if the polls have come a cropper, as in Truman's America or Heath's Britain, or if Rajiv Gandhi has been crowned as the third and most triumphant in his line.

There has been definite evidence in the past few months of a desire to India to remain India. When asked in the opinion poll about the key issues, 47 per cent put the unity of India first; 30 per cent chose inflation and 18 per cent corruption. A mere 5 per cent put regional autonomy first.

Every group seemed to react to issues in fairly equal proportions: urban and rural, Hindu and Moslem, men and women. Moreover, Congress (I) draws its support remarkably equally from all groups. Despite its ageing, disintegrating organization, the party is still the most powerful and ubiquitous force in India and somehow retains its popular appeal. With its new leader it seems to have revived.

People are swinging behind him hopefully, dreaming that he can liberate the country from its permeating corruption and muddle. India has long been a by-word for meaningless form-filling and perpetual back-passing. The technocratic Rajiv is visibly impatient with his country's self-inflicted handicap. If he wins by a landslide, he will be his own man, not just his mother's protégé and inheritor. But whether he or his advisers have the perceptiveness, or the power, to change deeply ingrained national habits must remain an open question.

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James Curran on the left's view of the Labour leader's new year

Kinnock: a threat to himself

Neil Kinnock's honeymoon period as Labour leader is about to end. Tony Benn is seriously considering whether to contest the party leadership next year. To do so would lead to a bitter and protracted internal struggle. Even if it does win, another left-wing candidate may well step in and force Kinnock to defend his position.

The main cause of this challenge is Kinnock's failure to give full support to the coal strike. The NUM has mounted the first determined opposition to the Government's unemployment policies and has remained remarkably solid in all but one of the five major production areas. But the strain is beginning to show: many miners' families have run up debts of more than £3,000 which will take years to pay off. In these circumstances, most party activists feel that Labour's leadership should be building public support for the miners and working behind the scenes to get greater union backing.

Of course, no leader of a democratic party could possibly condone picket line violence. The NUM leaders' failure to call a ballot is also a mistake. And Kinnock has put the case for the miners in many speeches and articles since the strike began.

But he has got the emphasis wrong. His reservations about the conduct of the dispute have emerged more strongly than his general commitment to the strikers' cause. This is not simply a product of biased media coverage. Kinnock could have shaped the headlines by doing newsworthy things on behalf of the miners. Yet, even at a time when the Archbishop of Canterbury has visited the picket lines and soup kitchens, Kinnock has preferred to stay away. In nine months he has spoken at only three major rallies with Arthur Scargill.

This cautious support has not won him public plaudits either. The latest MORI poll shows that his personal rating is significantly lower than support for his party. Indeed, approval for (but) is almost exactly on a par with support for the miners (31 per cent). His anxiety to court the middle ground of public opinion, going in this instance against all his instincts as a miner's son, has fuelled resentment within the party and weakened the miners' position with nothing to show for it.

Kinnock has also stored up trouble for himself by over-identifying with Labour's right wing. On every contentious issue since his election as leader he has voted with the right-wing faction on the national executive. In the autumn clear-out of key NEC committees, he voted for all the candidates on the



right-wing list except one, when he abstained.

Kinnock's shift to the right has brought peace and tranquillity in the short term. He has revived an old formula for running the Labour Party which has worked successfully in the past, aligning all the competing power centres within the party on a centre-right axis and using trade union block votes to bring the NEC and party conference into line with the right-dominated Parliamentary Labour Party.

But there are signs that this old formula will no longer work. Already, centrist trade unionists have broken rank more than once, leaving Kinnock dangerously isolated. On the NEC he failed to overturn the deselection of the right-wing MEP, Brian Key, because his centrist allies voted with the left.

Kinnock's attempt to get the rules for the reselection of Labour MPs

changed at the last party conference also blew up in his face because centrist unions defected to the left. The centre-left trade union block on which Kinnock now depends is much less reliable than the right-wing union bosses who shored up Hugh Gaitskell.

The left, in a significant change of tactics, is now getting ready to pull the rug from under Kinnock. Until now it has seemed triumphant by the scale of Labour's 1983 defeat and disarmed by the fear that continued internal bickering would help the Alliance. Its hitherto conciliatory approach has been reflected in its attitude to reselection. It has not attempted to organize a concerted national move against right-wing MPs and instead has concentrated on getting left-wing candidates selected for marginal seats.

Kinnock's shift to the right and his attitude to the miners' strike is

slowly prompting a change. Yet even now many of Tony Benn's closest advisers are urging him not to stand against the party leader. Some suggest that a lesser figure should contest the leadership as a symbolic protest while others argue that an open contest of any sort should be avoided.

Kinnock could easily defeat a left-wing challenge. His meteoric rise split the old left alliance by enlisting many erstwhile Benn supporters. The left remains divided and demoralized. The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, which spearheaded the Bennite campaign in the early 1980s, has lost many members. Even staff on *Tribune*, the independent Bennite journal, last week contemplated seceding to form a new editorial attacking Benn's call for a general strike (although in the end it was not written).

While Kinnock's personal position is not threatened, however, he would be well advised to review his strategy. He is the first Labour leader to be elected by all sections of the party, rather than solely by Labour MPs, and for this reason possesses a special authority. He could potentially command the loyalty of most activists and turn it into a campaign strategy aimed at shifting public opinion rather than fighting obscure internal battles. But to achieve this transformation, Kinnock will need to motivate his activists and revert to the centre-left ticket on which he was elected.

Admittedly he is in a difficult position. He must work effectively with the right-wing majority in the PLP and Shadow Cabinet. He must also win back lost voters, many of whose views are well to the right of Labour's right wing. A left-wing backlash could spell disaster at the next general election, however. Even if the left is weak it can still embolden the party in a long and self-destructive civil war. If this were to happen, Kinnock's central objective of winning back former Labour voters would be set at naught.

The way out of the dilemma is not easy. Kinnock should now seek to balance the different factions within the party by leading from the centre rather than the right. And instead of passively responding to the shifting middle ground of British politics, as in the miners' dispute, he should seek to close the gap between party and public opinion with courage and imagination. By a curious irony, the left has been serving Kinnock following his own political principles.

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The author was editor of New Socialist, 1981-84, and is now head of the Department of Communications at Goldsmiths' College, University of London.

One killing only - for gamesman Jaffe

Jack Jaffe is worried that the British are not very good at games. He is a games inventor and not, he admits, over-employed. He spends most of this time thinking about games and at least some actually playing them, but selling a new game to a British manufacturer is, he calculates, approximately one thousand times more difficult than selling a first novel to a publisher.

So he no longer tries and has now produced and marketed two of his own board games. *Libido*, an inhibition - dispelling game about sexual attitudes, has sold "well into six figures" since 1971 and is still going strong, although only weeks ago Jaffe says he met a retailer who insisted that he could not stock it under the terms of his lease because it was a marital aid. In *Persona* players are invited to make uninhibited commentaries on each other's personalities.

Unlike *Continuo* (a variant on dominoes), *Mandala* (a variant on Ludo) or *Kensington* (a variant on *Boredom*), his new offering, *Save*

the President, will not be marketed under the self-awarded title *Game of the Year*. That is partly because Jaffe insists that he worked more than three years to develop it, and he thinks it should last at least half a century.

The game incorporates all Jaffe's favourite elements: a little chance, a great deal of skulduggery, plenty of opportunity to undermine other players' plays, uncertainty about everybody else's identity, let alone their next move, and no way of knowing who has won until the game is over.

It also includes, claims Jaffe, a whole battery of new play techniques. "It is a great British invention," he insists, "unmatched by anything found in the United States. Perhaps the most remarkable first is that it plays just as well for two as it does for three to six players, because the two-player game is different and more strategic."

The idea for *Save the President* sprang from a visit to Washington DC and the observation that the

city's streets, on a grid plan, were admirably suited to a board game.

The conception came two years before the attempt on President Reagan's life, but 16 after the assassination of President Kennedy.

To a serious games player, Jaffe suggests, events in the real world are not really relevant. "I am not by any means advocating that anybody goes out and kills anybody," he says, "but the most popular games of our time - video games - are practically all based on the idea of killing somebody. I wanted the same excitement with something a bit more to it than mere hand and eye coordination."

Jaffe is the founder of the Society of Inventors of Games and Mathematically Attractive Attractions (SIGMA) whose 30 members meet on alternate Sundays in Covent Garden to play at adult games collected from all over the world. (Among the most popular are *Acquire*, *Civilization* and *Scrabble* which, 50 years on, Jaffe concedes is still the best word game. But intelligent interest in

board games remains distressingly low. Recently he has been developing promotional business games for companies to use in marketing. The biggest and best, he complains, remain under wraps in corporate boardrooms.

A former journalist, Jaffe has perfected the rules of *Save the President* to what he describes as "exquisite clarity." "If there was a Booker prize for games rules, *Save the President* would win it."

But not only are there no Booker prizes for games in Britain, there are no reviews either. In America the magazine *Games*, now published by Playboy, sells more than a million copies a month. The French *Jeux et Stratégie* sells 150,000, and the German *Spielbox* prospers. In Britain *Games and Puzzles* magazine has disappeared. *Save the President* has just had its first review, in an amateur's duplicated "fanzine" called *Mad Policy* with a mailing list of perhaps a few hundred. At least the writer liked it.

Robin Young

Brian Crozier

Five steps to beat the IRA

Mrs Thatcher is often seen these days in the company of the Irish Prime Minister, Dr. Garret Fitz-Gerald. They have met at summits in Dublin and at Chequers, at a funeral in Delhi, and another summit is in prospect. Relations between the two leaders were said to be cool after the Chequers meeting last month, but in general London and Dublin are closer than they have been for a long time.

Yet prospects of a joint strategy for defeating the IRA, as distinct from "improving security" and other such euphemisms for mere containment, seem as remote as ever. And no hopes of a new strategy for victory emerged in the Queen's Speech.

For 16 years successive governments have tried, with varying success, to contain the IRA. There has never been a firm commitment to defeating it. As a consequence terrorism continues with no end in sight. Being by definition fanatics, the terrorists will not give in merely because some of them might be captured and sentenced, not to death, but to a spell in jail.

The reasoning is clear. As Conor Cruise O'Brien has observed, the IRA godfathers hope that in the end, all political initiatives having failed, the British will simply pull out. The consequences would be dire: a civil war in the north, spreading to the whole island; an embittered Protestant enclave in Ulster, probably proclaiming its independence in a UDI of its own; and in due course, an offshore "Cuba" to provide a base for Britain's enemies.

At the Chequers summit Mrs Thatcher rejected a unified Ireland, a confederation and joint authority and reaffirmed that Northern Ireland was part of the United Kingdom. There was a commitment to cooperation between the two governments in matters of security but it fell well short of a joint strategy.

Yet terrorism can be defeated, and needs to be if even the most ingenious and well-meant political initiatives are to have the slightest chance of success. If it is not, the brooding threat of further violence is guaranteed to stifle any attempts to reconcile bitterly divided communities.

In admittedly very different circumstances the terrorists of the Baader-Meinhof gang in West Germany and of the Italian Red Brigades have been defeated. In Uruguay, the Tupamaros were crushed 12 years ago, and it has taken that long for that little country to return to democracy. It is not straining the bounds of patriotism to believe that we could do better than that.

Just what would a strategy for victory in Ulster mean? First, taking the fundamental decision to go for victory, not containment, and secondly, facing the need for necessarily harsh and unpopular measures, for a limited period. The

IRA Provisionals are waging a war against the British authorities and the Protestant community: it is an internal war, not a civil war. The law does not, of course, recognize the concept of an internal war, but then the law often lags behind reality, for a conventional war against an external enemy the public readily understands the need for exceptional measures "for the duration", confident that any suspended liberties will be restored when hostilities are over. The British public accepted detention without trial under Regulation 18-B during the Second World War, yet full democratic rights were restored unimpeded when it was over.

In stark terms, a strategy of victory would mean:

● Detention without trial in Northern Ireland for longer periods than now permitted by the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

● The restoration of "interrogation in depth" of the kind that was approved (with one dissenting voice) by Lord Parker's committee in March 1972 as having brought unprecedented results and probably saved many lives (but condemned by a committee of inquiry under Sir Edmund Compton, whose views prevailed).

● Naval interdiction of arms supplies by sea, for instance from Libya.

● As proposed by Lord Denning after the Brighton outrage, the application of the existing death penalty for high treason. The advantage of this proposal is that it would avoid the need to press for a restoration of the death penalty through a reluctant House of Commons. The weakness of it lies in the fact that the many apprehended terrorists with Irish citizenship can hardly be charged with treason to the Crown. If no way can be found around this problem it would be necessary for the Government, if it decided to go for victory, to rally its supporters in the light of the fact that the public favours the restoration of the death penalty for certain crimes, even if the House does not.

Of all perhaps, the need to exercise "hot pursuit" across the border.

Ideally, such measures would require the full cooperation of the Irish government, which even under Dr. FitzGerald looks politically impossible. Whatever may be said publicly about joint efforts, the Republic shuns direct contact between its own and the British Army, even though the police forces cooperate up to a point. Moreover, the Republic's record on extradition leaves much to be desired.

A strategy of victory, therefore, would probably in the end imply unilateral British action, involving articulated outrage from certain sectors, including the United Nations. In other words, it would all be rather unpleasant. But then, so is terrorism.

Philip Norman

A rough passage to the movies

New York
David Lean's film adaptation of *A Passage to India* is showing exclusively at one of New York's smartest cinemas, the Ziegfeld on West 54th Street. As we had decided to see it on only the second night of its run, and being somewhat hardened to Manhattan movie-going, we arrived a full hour before the scheduled performance time. Already, two queues stretched almost to the full block to Sixth Avenue. The first queue was for ticket buyers. The second consisted of those who had paid their \$5 and, with New York's characteristic regard for paying customers, had been herded to wait behind a blue police barrier.

It took 20 minutes in the first queue to reach the single ticket window, in a foyer easily able to accommodate all those outside were it not "policy" (a word never challenged here) that film and theatre audiences may not enter the performance on the premises. Some effort, however, had been made to fill the empty space with uniformed ushers bawling "Have your money out when you reach the window!" and "No standing inside. The ticket holders' line is outside!"

The ticket holders' line waited 50 minutes, as meek in that penitential darkness as it would have been in a rainstorm or snow shower. Around us, we noticed the faces of prominent journalists, publishers and members of other opinionated professions. All shuffled together obediently when a guard with a loudhailer, passed by, barking, "Close up that line, folks. Close it up."

Eight minutes before performance time, permission was given for the customers to come in. The ticket holders' line surged forward like wagons in a nineteenth-century land rush. The over-crowded over-policed queue, of course, was instantly beyond control. In front of us, a further guard reared up, shrieking, "Hold the line here!" We just got by. Our friend, visiting New York from Buckinghamshire, was left behind. "Please," we cried, "He's with us." Our friend somehow slipped through. "I said 'hold that line' the usher spat at the next customer. 'Don't move till I tell ya to move! Got it?'"

We arrived by packed escalator in an upper foyer whose pandemonium surpassed all Foster's descriptions of the Chandrapore bazzars. There were frantic queues for the popcorn stand, the ladies' room and - more inexplicably - the telephones. More ushers moved against the tide, helpfully saying "Showtime in less than one minute!"

In the auditorium, the lights were already dimming even though hundreds of people still had not found seats. We had been lucky to spot five together - two for late arriving friends - in an area which British cinema goes once used to call "the Nineties". Thick plastic debris and old popcorn, left by the previous house, crunched under our feet. As the credits rolled, the frantic scurrying and pleas of "are all the tickets?" grew more piteous. Our friend from Buckinghamshire remarked: "It's never like this at the Regal, Marlow."

A Passage to India is a terrible disappointment. David Lean, above all directors, has proved it possible to bring great literature to the screen intact. Here he was working with a book which, for all its subtle metaphors, is never less than utterly cinematic. Hollywood market forces, presumably, are responsible for the gratuitous shots of lancers and night mail trains, and the stubborn misinterpretation of Forster's characters and their motives. Thus, Azeem, Quoted, and Professor Godbole become major characters while the relationship between Aziz and Fielding shrinks to a mere vignette.

Two or three of Forster's lines survive in a script whose lameness hardly matters since, to suit the American attention span, most scenes cut as soon as they have begun. The ending has been moved from Mau to scenic Srinagar. Gone is the wonderful coda when Aziz and Fielding try to embrace but their horses, like their cultures, swerve apart. In David Lean's version, Aziz writes sentimentally to Miss Quested: "So glad all that unpleasantness at the Malabar Caves is over."

Because we were an upmarket audience - and because this had been called "a dark comedy of manners" by the *New York Times* - the auditorium was relatively free of talk. Most movies here play against an uproar recalling the Saturday morning matinees of my boyhood. Nor was there detectable marijuana smoke. Upmarket New Yorkers, however, still drink noxious brown fizzy drinks and consume popcorn from outside tubs, imparting to the most hushed on-screen moments a sound like armies advancing over gravel. Being an upmarket audience, there was also an occasional "ump" as someone's jogger's stopwatch alarm accidentally went off.

When I get back to England, I know the first thing I'm going to do. I'm going to book a season ticket in perpetuity at the Regal, Marlow.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 1984

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THE ENTITY OF LONDON

In Acacia Avenue, NW all is still. The laurel bushes of London's suburbia have not disgorged Conservative councillors and parliamentarians banging the drum in support of the Government's proposals for the future of London government. On the face of it here is a puzzle. The Secretary of State for the Environment continues to aver that abolishing the Greater London Council is a boon for boroughs; it kills the "upper tier" and its imposts; it brings public services into proximity. But Hillingdon and Havering persist in their mundane worries about the disposal of waste, the green belt and grants. The Harrovians know their parish, and know the limits to the co-operation and joint boards on which the Government sets such store. And in all the boroughs and through the ranks of the capital's MPs runs a growing conviction that this bill is bad for London - yes, that entity does exist - and its easy rejection of the principle of direct election in the provision of public service is a dangerous thing at this phase of the nation's life. When Parliament reassembles in the New Year and the abolition bill proceeds through committee rectifying amendments should receive strong support.

The two strongest objections to the Local Government Bill's plan for London are these.

THE KREMLIN'S CHOICE

Last September an event occurred in Moscow which surprised even the most seasoned Western observers. The extremely competent Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the chief of staff and a deputy defence minister, who had already distinguished himself by his ingenious attempt to exculpate the Soviet Union of the responsibility for the shooting down of the Korean airliner, was relieved of his post and despatched to command the Warsaw Pact forthwith on the Western front. What could his removal mean? Would the Russians be more or less ready to resume arms control negotiations as a result?

With the death last Thursday of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, last September's events now take on a clearer aspect. Obviously Marshal Ustinov's fading health must have become apparent to the Soviet leaders. Faced with the possibility of the Defence Minister's portfolio falling into the hands of a proficient professional soldier (albeit a member of the Party) - someone who was clearly less than impressed by the intellectual grasp that his political superiors showed of complex military questions - the men in the Kremlin must have feared for their ability to retain total control over the armed forces, the lynchpin of the Soviet state. Moreover, Marshal Ogarkov, in his writings, had put forward military doctrines at variance with the official policy of the USSR. He had argued in favour of a strategy relying less on nuclear weapons and more on conventional ones capable of making deep strikes into enemy territory. That in itself would not be terribly serious. But the fact he had in mind were to be found not in the West but in the East. His dismissal highlights the growing tension between the Party which would like to continue to formulate military strategy with a view to the

Whatever happens to administration, the Government cannot abolish London. Between Richmond and Hammersmith there are shared concerns (for example, the flight path into Heathrow). Denizens of the 32 boroughs share interests in transport, public safety and public health; there is an emotion and a culture that is London, which ought to be expressed through a political organ more local than parliament yet less parochial than the borough. Besides, however imperfect our system of property rates in aligning voting power and responsibility for tax-paying, that is no argument against the ballot box. Even the degraded politics of a directly-elected body are superior to the high-minded unaccountability of a quango.

Blueprints for directly-elected London-wide body abound. The Conservative group of GLC councillors have worked at this. Mr Cyril Taylor's Bow Group deliberations have influenced backbenchers. The functional responsibilities of such a body have precisely to be defined. Its ambit would be only those activities too large to be encompassed within a single borough - fire and civil defence, tourism, highways, waste disposal, the green belt, certain parks, concert-halls and museums. It ought to be a tight list, to include administration of

the debt built up over the years on the name of all London. Execution of functions, notably fire and waste, would be carried out day-to-day by agencies. The London-wide body might, for example, have access, for monitoring and informal auditing, to the accounts of that quango turned nationalized industry, Thames Water.

A GLC Mark II, ministers have exclaimed when offered such amendments. It certainly need not, and should not, be that. The experience of GLC Mark I has given enough ammunition to redefine more tightly the new body's role, protecting the citizens of London from bad spending, over-manning and political manipulation.

London's administration has always shown an untidy pattern in which the only consistent element has been the intense interest of Whitehall, and not only in public order. There is no reason why a reconstructed London-wide body should fit into any of the existing categories, with wide general powers to tax and spend; it would in any case be required to enter a close and continuing fiscal relationship with Whitehall. The government of the capital will always be anomalous. The passage of the abolition bill presents the opportunity not to remove the anomaly but to establish the necessary London-wide element on the sure footing of a direct franchise.

that a powerful figure in the Defence Ministry, someone who already had extensive connections with the security forces, would lead to substantial sections of the party turning against him, fearing - as they have done so many times in the past - the emergence of a new "Bonaparte". As a result he would probably not have been in the running for the most coveted prize of all.

Ironically, the military probably did not want him either, but for exactly the opposite reason. They wanted to revert to the tradition of having a professional soldier holding the post. In the end the job went to the only remaining contender, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, who had previously been responsible for administrative, logistical and financial affairs within the Defence Ministry. Some observers believe that his appearance on November 7 showed that the decision had been made as early as that.

In view of his age - 73 - and his background he is not likely to prove too resistant to the Politburo's demand that he makes sure that military spending does not get out of hand. What the Politburo will want from him is a clearly worked out list of the needs of the armed forces which can subsequently be formulated into coherent negotiating positions at the arms control talks which are to be resumed in the new year.

On the other hand, in view of his age again, he is unlikely to be in charge of the Defence Ministry for very long. With Marshal Ogarkov (who clearly has a strong following within the armed forces) still holding a senior position and with the struggle for Mr Chernenko's succession continuing in the background, the new appointment will bring only a temporary lull in the fight for the right to determine Soviet policy for the coming decades.

PURE AND BLESSED FOOD

Not many begin a major meal with a blessing no doubt because "saying grace" too easily becomes the meaningless muttering of pious generality. It seems more honest to plunge straight into the feast. It is edifying, nevertheless, to recall the practices of Orthodox Jews in relation to food. Its preparation, from start to finish, is governed by a code of religious observances. The Jewish housewife, engaged in the special skills of her kitchen, is deemed to be performing religious as well as culinary rites. The very raw material she uses must be of a particular standard. And where meat is concerned, the rules are intended to show respect to the animal. The very restrictiveness of the kosher regime suggests that the killing of animals for human food is a dispensation from God, not a natural right of man, who must use the privilege carefully.

It is ironic, therefore, that from time to time animal welfare organizations seek to create a public fuss about the alleged cruelty of shechita. For in respect for animal life, the Jews were there first, and are still ahead. But it is also quite understandable that all sorts of emotions should be stirred by the subject of "ritual slaughter". Our very squeamishness at discussing whatever goes on in abattoirs is proof enough.

Essentially the Jewish and

Islamic modes of slaughter differ from what might be called the secular mode in insisting that the animal should be healthy, and intact. To stun it, by electrical or mechanical means, is by definition to injure it before killing it, though for the entirely laudable object of rendering it unconscious first. The animal is killed under legal dispensation granted to those religious communities, by one swift stroke of a sharp knife. It must be accepted that the Moslem community in Britain has not yet attained the high level of organized supervision practised by the Jewish community, and there are still occasional notorious lapses. But this method of killing, done properly, is by no means necessarily inhumane.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is continuing to campaign against shechita, notwithstanding that attempts to interest Parliament in its prohibition have come to nothing. The case for saying it is a cruel practice is based on some research work done with electroencephalograph equipment, which has apparently shown that measurable brain activity can be detected for up to 90 seconds after the act. Against this is set scientific evidence that the sudden collapse of blood-pressure renders the beast unconscious within a second or two. In humans and animals, EEG readings are no

proof of consciousness: it is argued they are not even proof of life, as they can be detected in decapitated animals.

This technical dispute is amenable to a technical solution, and there is scope for some expert investigation under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture to set out in search of it. Public concern is not automatically illegitimate, nor motivated by ill-will towards the minority groups concerned, and those with good-will and open minds are entitled to some reassurance by such media.

The case for allowing these slaughter techniques prescribed by Jewish and Islamic religious codes is wider than such technical considerations, however, which set a higher burden of proof on those who would prohibit them. Religious rights are real and important, and cannot simply be weighed against "animal rights", a philosophically questionable concept. The consequences for two important religious minorities in Britain of prohibiting shechita and halal would be quite enormous, and such an act would itself be enormously offensive to their sensitivities. They would be entitled to point to the sometimes genuinely inhumane practices involved in the "secular" processes of animal husbandry and slaughtering, and ask what the real motive was for singling them out so blatantly.

Mr Levin and the cause of tolerance

From Mr Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool Walton (Labour)

Sir, With reference to Bernard Levin's piece in *The Times* features (December 24), I suppose one could not have expected anything better from someone like him, who years ago, before I was an MP, and when I was a councillor and chairman of the works department in Liverpool, wrote that because I believed in a trade union shop for the works department I should have a concrete block tied round my neck and be dropped into the Mersey.

I also remember that around the same time he wrote that if Harold Wilson became Prime Minister he would leave Britain. In view of his often vitriolic writing it is a pity he did. He has not contributed one iota to the cause of tolerance.

What amazes me about the House of Commons episode is that not one journalist from those newspapers that criticised me asked me for my reasons for not standing, but without enquiry rushed into print making me out to be an unfeeling villain, suddenly sitting in the chamber.

The fact is, I was by no means the only one to remain seated when poor John Wakeham struggled to his seat. According to David McKie in *The Guardian* (December 14) Enoch Powell also remained seated. Yet I note that not one paper has said "shame" or anything else about that. I do not know Enoch Powell's reasons, but mine were that whilst I felt very pleased that John Wakeham was back, I thought it unseemly that people should be cheering, waving order papers etc., when he must still be grieving the loss of his beloved wife. I was deeply moved at the sight of him, so obviously frail and suffering the effects of the tragedy.

I also felt he was being used and I made that point afterwards to one of the Tory whips. On that morning he had a photo-call and press conference, and he entered the chamber on the very day of the Enfield by-election. Two days earlier Norman Tebbit had issued a statement to the Enfield electors that only the Conservatives were really against terrorism and that is why they should be given the vote.

The Tory party is the most ruthless political machine and I believe both Norman Tebbit and John Wakeham were used by that machine to boost their sagging support in Enfield. I was glad to see John Wakeham back on the road to recovery but I did not like what in my view was the unscrupulous political use being made of the tragedy.

Your readers will be interested to know that immediately after the Brighton bombing I issued a statement condemning it and sending sympathy to the chairman of the Tory conference, I did that as the chairman of the Labour party conference which had just ended.

Why I should be writing this I really cannot understand. Whether Eric Heffer or anyone else stood or

not is really of no importance. There are so many more important things against which Mr Levin could vent his wrath. But I have ceased to expect any more than pettiness and rancour from Mr Levin's pen. It is a pity if obvious talents are not used to better purpose. Yours sincerely, ERIC HEFFER, House of Commons.

From Miss Pamela Ann Smith

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin is quite right to point out, quoting Mr Roy Hattersley, that Mr John Wakeham's appearance in the House of Commons after his recovery from the horrors of the Brighton bombing "personified the triumph of democracy over terrorism".

However, am I not right in detecting in Mr Levin's assault on the recent past that have peaked so much personal abuse on one man. Having known Mr Heffer when he chaired the Labour Party's subcommittee on the Middle East, I was greatly impressed by his tolerance, initiative and depth of knowledge on subjects that ranged from the vintage of Chilean wines, the biographies of Austrian social democrats to the intricacies of Israeli electoral politics.

To those who sought to reduce the Arab-Israeli conflict to slogans and invective, whether they be pro-Palestinian or arch-Beginists, Mr Heffer has always been ready to point out the views of the other side. More generally, he has criticised the regime in Poland and expressed support for Solidarity as well as for those who are now suffering the assaults of the Soviet-backed government in Ethiopia. These policies are hardly consistent with the kind of demagogic, irrational and intolerant support of the international Communist Party that Mr Levin attributes to Mr Heffer.

Nor, I doubt, will Mr Wakeham, the Conservative Party, or *The Times* readers be greatly served by an analysis of Mr Heffer's political motivation that reduces his actions to a question of his "vast and unshapely bulk" or which labels him an "insensate beast". Mr Levin himself seems taken aback at one point by his own invective, commenting, "I hardly know why I write these words". Surely if he really wants to know why Mr Heffer failed to greet Mr Wakeham in the same manner as others in the House he ought simply to ask him. That would save us all a lot of Christmas ill will from Mr Levin's poisonous pen.

Yours sincerely, PAMELA ANN SMITH, 25 Petherton Road, N5, December 26.

Battery-powered car

From Mr George Isled

Sir, The battery-powered town car (report, December 14) which is to cost £400 and which is to be launched by Sir Clive Sinclair next month is quite likely to become very popular.

However, it raises to my mind an important issue, for I understand from other sources that the vehicle is designed to take advantage of regulations which came into force in August allowing such vehicles to be driven by anyone over 14 without the need for a licence, insurance, road tax, or crash helmet.

I can quite foresee owners and drivers of such vehicles being involved from time to time in quite serious road accidents where personal injuries might be sustained and where substantial damages might be awarded against such owners or drivers.

It seems to be in nobody's interest

to allow such vehicles to be driven on the highway without third-party liability insurance, neither from the point of view of the party who might be liable for damages (and being uninsured be unable to pay), nor from the point of view of the party who might suffer injury or damage (and, there being no insurance in force, be unable to recover).

In the same vein I have noticed of recent years an apparent significant increase in the number of pedal cyclists using busy main roads, particularly at rush-hour times, and incline to the view that some form of third-party liability insurance ought to be compulsory in their case also.

I am Sir, your obedient servant, GEORGE ISLED, (Senior Lecturer in Insurance), City of London Polytechnic, Department of Banking and Insurance, School of Business Economics and Social Studies, 84 Moorgate, EC2, December 15.

The cares of office

From Dr Bernard Dixon

Sir, At this joyful season, I request the favour of your columns to make a suggestion which may possibly be welcome to politicians of all parties, and indeed to political theatre's public audience.

Sir Keith Joseph has been looking more than usually harassed recently, and I believe I know the reason why. Like many before him (though he shows it more) Sir Keith has been called upon to shoulder twin burdens as Secretary of State for both Education and Science. This is unfair, irrational, and - as we witnessed recently - increasingly unworkable.

For a sensitive minister to be continually yapped at, now by physicists, now by teachers, now from the right, now from the left, is a nuisance. But to find himself withdrawing plans for parental

tuition fees by transferring money back from the science Vote on the very day when the chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils has thanked him for finding those extra funds for science, indicates a considerable turmoil.

This is precisely the sort of manoeuvre which caused even Ivan Pavlov's well-trained dogs acute distress. Is that a reasonable return for a lifetime of public service? Or have we now reached the point at which, while recognizing that science and education are not unconnected, future governments should create separate portfolios and separate departments for these vitally important areas of national life?

Yours sincerely, BERNARD DIXON, 81 Falmouth Road, Chelmsford, Essex, December 18.

VAT on publications

From the Master and the Upper Warden of the Stationers' & Newspaper Makers' Company

Sir, In her widely reported speech on November 26 Mrs Thatcher quoted Goethe on the need for each generation to win again the victories of its forebears. She was making the point that we are all guardians of democracy.

Her words should hearten those today who are worried that the Government may be about to impose a levy on the written word. Looking back over its 500-year history, the Stationers' Company has helped win many victories in the fight against the taxation of knowledge and to discredit the idea of such a tax whenever it has reappeared.

We strongly endorse the endeav-

ours of those present-day guardians who are fighting to preserve the democratic right to a tax-free press, be it for books or newspapers.

Yours sincerely, LAURENCE VINEY, Master, BRYAN BULLEN, Upper Warden. The Worshipful Company of Stationers & Newspaper Makers, Stationers' Hall, EC4.

Flipping one's lid

From Mr H. B. Bullen

Sir, I have taken to wearing a beret basque. How does one raise the beret when greeting a lady?

Yours faithfully, BRYAN BULLEN, Chapel Cottage, Brandyd, Croydon, Surrey, December 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economic links for S. African reform

From the Master of Hatfield College Durham

Sir, The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Desmond Tutu and the demonstrations in the USA which led to President Reagan's denunciation of apartheid raise again the question: "What can we do to promote peaceful change in South Africa?"

Although there is broad agreement in this country that apartheid is abhorrent there is much less agreement about the steps which should be taken against it. The most obvious means of exerting pressure is through the extensive economic links between Britain and South Africa, and over the years there has been a persistent campaign for economic sanctions.

Currently the call (both in the USA and here) is for disinvestment. However, for that or any other forms of economic sanctions the first matter to be settled is the purpose for which they are imposed. Are they to symbolise abhorrence for apartheid and to demonstrate a refusal to cooperate with its perpetrators; or are they to protect the Government from anti-apartheid criticism; or are they to bring about political reform in South Africa?

If they are symbolic or to save the Government's skin perhaps they could be effective, but promoting political reform is much less certain. Previous experience of sanctions suggests that they are a blunt instrument which sometimes has little political effect and sometimes has the reverse impact to that desired. For instance, in this case they might lead to greater white intransigence and to adverse economic consequences for blacks inside South Africa and in the neighbourhood.

Another major problem with sanctions is that those who are responsible for imposing and implementing them - the government and the business community - are less than enthusiastic. No British government (and certainly not Mrs Thatcher's) has been willing to risk losing the economic advantages of the South Africa connection. Sanctions which what Britain loses others will gain, and concerned about the political and economic implications at home. On their part the business and financial organisations are eager to extend, not curtail, economic activity and if sanctions were imposed they would

do all they could to circumvent them.

It is, therefore, most unlikely that the British Government would impose sanctions to better the lot of blacks in the republic. The British Government already imposes a UN arms ban which has important economic implications, and if there were enormous pressures at home and abroad, and if Britain were in danger of isolation from Western partners, the Government might take the step. However, it is most unlikely that it would be done with great reluctance.

Does that mean that the economic links cannot be used to help peaceful reform in South Africa? I think not, although the proposals I make are only a step on a long road and they will not satisfy those who aim for the rapid overthrow of the whole system.

My proposals are that the economic links should be used in a positive way to better the lot of blacks in the republic. The first step could be for the Government to be more vigorous in ensuring that British firms operating in South Africa comply rigorously with the terms of the EEC code of conduct. This could be done by regular and thorough checks and by exposing those who fall short.

Second, the business and financial communities could initiate a major development fund for blacks. That might be used in three ways: a) for urban improvement, such as housing; b) for education and training; c) for agricultural development in black rural areas.

This final objective - agricultural improvement - might eventually be of value for all black Africa. We are all conscious that unless there is substantial agricultural improvement there will be many more famines like the appalling tragedy which now faces Ethiopia.

It may be unrealistic to expect business organizations to mount a political challenge to the South African Government, but it is unreasonable to suggest that they set up a major development fund (perhaps coordinated by the United Kingdom-South Africa Trade Association) in a country in which many British companies have gained so much and many blacks have gained so little?

Yours faithfully, JAMES BARBER, Master, Hatfield College, Durham, December 20.

Mr Gorbachov's visit

From Dr Jonathan Sutton

Sir, On the basis of two days of fruitful talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, Mrs Thatcher confirmed that she can "do business" with him. That may indeed be her hope, but it is not highly unrealistic to look forward to significantly improved relations with Soviet leaders and at the same time to do so little to promote or fund the study of Russian language and culture in this country?

Where are the British Government's future specialists and advisers on Kremlin policy to come from? According to figures given in the handbook *Russian in Schools*, that was published in 1982 by the Association of Teachers of Russian, the number of students entering for GCE A-level Russian dropped from 846 in 1971 to 379 in 1980.

In the same period those taking the O-level examination in Russian dropped from 3,145 to 1,798. This has occurred as a direct result of

schools being forced, by economic pressures, to give up this subject which was given so much backing in the 1960s.

Russian specialists at all levels have sought to reverse this serious decline, well aware that for the vast majority of secondary school children in Britain Russian does not even feature as one of their language options. The new alternative O-level in "general Russian studies", introduced by the University of London Examination Board (and first examined in June, 1983) represents a valuable means of stimulating interest and of encouraging students to become well-informed.

As a teacher, I find students extremely concerned about the present tensions between East and West and anxious to understand them. Surely it is in the Government's own interests to promote such understanding as early as possible.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN SUTTON, 60 Camden Square, NW1, December 17.

Preventing 'star wars'

From Colonel Jonathan Alford

Sir, In his letter (December 19) Mr James Hill appears (somewhat idiosyncratically) to have adopted pre-emption as a rationale for the US President's strategic defence initiative (SDI). He calls in one place for "electronic and laser-based pre-emptive systems" and in another for "a pre-emptive defence system".

If the words have any meaning, Mr Hill's intention must be that the US should somehow strike Soviet weapons before launch. "Pre-emptive defence" is universally taken to mean attacking the military forces of an opponent before he can attack you. Two things need saying.

The first is that the technologies envisaged for the SDI would not confer any capability whatsoever to destroy Soviet strategic weapons before launch. The second is that I cannot imagine anything more alarming for strategic stability than a capacity for massive pre-emption even if it was technically feasible (which clearly it is not).

I am confused and alarmed also by the way in which Mr Hill seems to propose the mingling of civilian and military space programmes. If he is really recommending a civilian route to ballistic missile defence, any

prospects for technological restraint and arms control in this area of superpower competition, dim as they may be, would surely vanish.

From this it might reasonably be concluded that I am far closer to Wayland Kennet (feature, December 19) than I am to Mr Hill.

Yours etc, JONATHAN ALFORD, 21 Irene Road, SW6, December 20.

From Mr Ronald Youngs
Sir, Your editorial (December 17) on the visit of Mr Gorbachov omits a consideration which must be made if his position is to be understood.

Were you a well-informed Soviet citizen, would you not see the development of a fully effective American defence system, of a kind perhaps beyond the resources of the USSR, as creating the possibility of the destruction of your country, branded as evil, because there would be no fear of retaliation? And would you not, in consequence, require of your government, as its first priority, that it should do everything to prevent such a possibility?

Would you, in your own person, seek to face with an ordinary Russian, be able to look him squarely in the eye and say that you are quite sure that there are not Americans in high places who harbour just such thoughts as he fears?

Yours faithfully, RONALD YOUNGS, Flat 2, Breakers, Gorey, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Dressing down

From Sir Robin Hooper

Sir, Though I still, from time to time, wear a pin-striped suit, advancing age exempts me from jury service, so I have no personal axe to grind. But Mr John Archer's account of his experiences (December 17) leaves one fighting back an unworthy suspicion that defending counsel's objections to him had less to do with doubts whether their clients would get a fair trial than with possibly justified fears that they might.

Yours faithfully, ROBIN HOOPER, Brook House, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, December 17.

Master builder's Gothic task

Barracks, Northampton on
February 13.

Barnicks, Northampton on
February 13.
 The Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Mountbatten Festival of Music, in aid of the Malcom Sargent Cancer Fund, at the Albert Hall on February 14.
 The Duke of Gloucester will open the "Save Gibraltar's Heritage" conference at the National Army Museum on February 26.
 The Duke of Gloucester will open an extension to Soundwell Technical College, Bristol on February 27.
 Princess Alexandra will be present at a premiere of *Me and My Girl*, in aid of the National Association of Youth Clubs, at the Adelphi Theatre, on February 11.

**Mr C. M. Hogg
and Miss M. M. L. Travers**
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Sandy Hogg, of Mugdock, Glasgow, and Margaret, daughter of the late Mr John Travers and of Mrs Marie Travers, of Hillhead, Glasgow.

Colonel Sir Roderick Brinckman, 82; Mr G. C. Brunton, 63; Miss Marlene Dietrich, 80; Mr Lance Gibbs, 59; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Hoddinott, 67; The Earl of Inchead, 57; Sir William Kilpatrick, 78; Miss Pat Moss, 30; Dr J. N. L. Myres, 82; Professor D. H. Northcote, 63; Sir Anthony Plowman, 79; Professor B. R. Ross, 55; Sir Robert S. Sutherland, 77; Sir Jeffrey Sterling, Miss Janet Street-Porter, 38; Brigadier Dame Mary Whitwhit, 81.

Judge Edward Jones retired from the Circuit Bench on the Northern Circuit on December 21. He was appointed a county court judge in 1969 and became a circuit judge under the Courts Act 1971.

The following is the text of the Queen's Christmas Day message to the Commonwealth:

"Last June, we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of D-Day. That occasion in Normandy was a memorable one for all of us who were able to be there.

"It was partly a day of sadness, as we paid our respects to those who died for us, but it was also a day full of comradeship and of hope.

"For me, perhaps the most lasting impression was one of thankfulness that the forty intervening years have been ones of comparative peace.

"The families of those who died in battle, and the veterans who fought beside them in their youth, find some comfort from the fact that the great nations of the world have contrived, sometimes precariously maybe, to live together without major conflict.

"The grim lessons of two world wars have not gone completely unheeded.

"I feel that in the world today there is too much concentration on the gloomy side of life, so that we tend to underestimate our blessings. But I think we can at least feel thankful that in spite of everything, our children and grandchildren are growing up in a more or less peaceful world.

"The happy arrival of our fourth grandchild gave great reason for family celebrations. But, for parents and grandparents, a birth is also a time for reflection on what the future holds for the baby and how they can best ensure its safety and happiness.

"To do that, I believe we must be prepared to learn as much from them as they do from us. We could use some of that sturdy confidence and devastating honesty with which children rescue us from self-doubts and self-delusions.

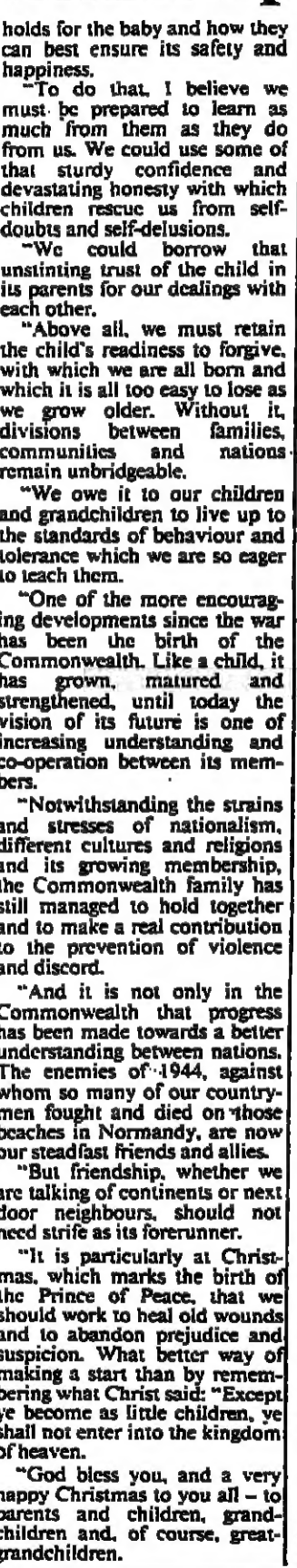
"We could borrow that unstinting trust of the child in its parents for our dealings with each other.

"Above all, we must retain the child's readiness to forgive, with which we are all born and which is all too easy to lose as we grow older. Without it, divisions between families, communities and nations remain unbridgeable.

"We owe it to our children and grandchildren to live up to the standards of behaviour and tolerance which we are so eager to teach them.

"One of the more encouraging developments since the war has been the birth of the Commonwealth. Like a child, it has grown, matured and strengthened, until today the vision of its future is one of increasing understanding and co-operation between its members.

"Notwithstanding the strains and stresses of nationalism, different cultures and religions and its growing membership, the Commonwealth family has still managed to hold together and to make a real contribution to the prevention of violence



Master builder Jim Bambridge divides his time between the Dorset village of Winterborne Stickland and 110th Street on the edge of New York's Harlem.

His job for the past five years has been to finish building the world's largest cathedral, St John the Divine, started on December 27, 1892 and still at least 15 years from completion.

But Mr Bambridge's main task is to train eight new stone carvers in a tradition killed by the advent of modern architecture in the United States.

Work was abandoned in 1911 but restarted the following year with a new architect, Ralph Adams Cram, of Cram and Ferguson, America's leading Gothic revivalist. His French Gothic style was used for the next phase, up until 1942, when it was abandoned for a second time until 1979.

The task will be the culmination of Mr Bambridge's lifetime with stone. He was apprenticed at fifteen, attended the Brixton School of Building in London and then was employed with the City builders, Trollop & Colls. He worked on the US consulate in Toronto and on MP's accommodation at Westminster before moving to Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral

He has two British assistants, Mr Stephen Boyle, the site construction manager, who served some time at York Minster; and Mr Nicholas Fairplay, a carver and cutter. Fifteen people work on the

Latest appointments

Mr Michael Joshua Hyam to be a Circuit Judge on the South Eastern Circuit.

The following to be chairman of the new family practitioners committee:

Avon: Mr Philip Price; Barnet: Mr

Mr Michael Joshua Hyam to be a Circuit Judge on the South Eastern circuit.

The following to be the chairman of the new family practitioners committee:

Avon: Mr Philip Price; Barnet: Mr James Lemkin; Bradford: Mr James Burgess; Bromley: Mr Bryan Collins; Cheshire: Mr Stemon Westwood; Derbyshire: Dr John Hargrave; Devon: Mr Hanserault; Dorset and Hounslow: Mrs Jillian Stearn; Hampshire: Mrs June Ayling; Herefordshire: Mr Michael Johnson; Kent: Mr Jeffrey Wood; Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster: Mr Robert Smith; Lancashire: Ms Catherine de Smith; Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham: Mr David Taylor; Newcastle: Mr William Forsythe; Norfolk: Mr Anthony Emerson; Northampton: Mr Paul Cusack; Northumberland: Mr Peter Cook; Oxford: Mr Helen and Knowlesy; Mr John Gray.

Dr David Beeton, aged 45, Bath University Council's Chief Executive, to be secretary to the National Trust, responsible for administration, in particular membership, in succession to Mr Ivor Blomfield, who has retired on a newly-created post as trustee of director for the regions.

To be members of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions from January 1:

[illegible][illegible]

The British Rail Property Board is to spend £2m a year converting and restoring railway arches into various

Pirate who became a literary success

By Tony Samstag

Gold was the bait, no doubt, for most of the seventeenth-century buccannery and pirates, but among other motives were the simple love of adventure, the desire to see strange new lands and, in a few cases, the thirst for knowledge," according to G. T. Corley Smith in the current issue of *Noticias de Galapagos*.

"Many of them deliberately chose to return home from the Spanish Main by sailing on westward and circumnavigating the earth.... 'Always a little further' might have been the motto to the minority for whom loot was not the main attraction and these were the

The English and French pirates were, of course, criminals in their own countries; but the Spanish colonies were considered fair game. "Even when England and France were at peace with Spain in Europe, it was tacitly accepted that there was 'no peace beyond the line' - that is, roughly speaking, west of the Azores.

"So the Spaniards plundered the Americas and the oceaners plundered the

Spaniards, preferably by seizing their treasure-ships laden with silver and gold from the land of the Incas."

The Batcher's Delight, a captured Danish slave ship of 40 guns, arrived in the Calapeagos in 1684 with her prize crew of about 70. They had set out to find the islands, whose existence had been hinted at by other seafarers, ostensibly because "Spanish defences had improved since Drake's time and it seemed prudent to lie up further from the mainland". Their commander, Captain John Cook, was seriously ill and had not long to live.

As his successor, Edward Davis, was to write: "Knowing that we had more than an hundred prisoners on board and not knowing where to get water, nor where to find a place of making a Magazine for flour, but that we should be hunted out, and have our flour destroyed, we sailed to the Westward to see if we could find those Islands called the Spicecloes, which made the Spaniards laugh at us telling us they were Inhabited Islands, and that they were but shadows and not real Islands."

A "masterly description" of the Galapagos written more than a century earlier was, Mir Corley Smith writes, "gathered dust in the archives of the Council of the Indians at Seville."

It was the pirates, particularly the surprisingly literate members of the crew of the *Bachelor's Delight*, who were the first to publicize the Galapagos.

William Dampier, whose melancholy portrait in the National Portrait Gallery is curiously subtitled "Pirate and Hydrographer," was an incorrigible note-taker and observer of natural history. Sadly for students of the Galapagos, it

fell to him to nurse the ailing Captain Cook, so that his observations were limited to a single island.

But the notes he took were copious and accurate. "I took care to provide myself with a large joint of bamboo," he wrote, "which I stopped, at both ends, closing it with wax, so as to keep out any water. In this I preserved my journal and other writings from being wet, though I was often forced to swim."

His published journal, *A New Voyage Round the World*, enjoyed a great literary suc-

cess and established the author as a reformed character and a scientist of repute.

William Ambrose Cowley, another veteran of the Bachelor's Delight, was the first to draw a chart showing the individual islands. "By modern standards it was a rough affair but it served navigators for over a century. A patriot-spirite, he loyally named the islands after members of the English establishment, whose laws and authority he was flouting." Last of all he named one after himself, "Cowley's Inhabited Island," and it bears his name still.

Mr Corley Smith speculates

as to whether the pirates might have introduced ferals to the islands, setting in train a series of threats to the indigenous wildlife that persist to this day, but reaches no firm conclusions. However: "They all mention careening their ships and it is difficult to believe that they hauled them out . . . without rats getting ashore, as they had already done on Juan Fernandez Island, further to the south."

Source: *Noticias de Galapagos*, no. 340 (Charles Darwin Foundation Galapagos Islands, Santa Cruz, Ecuador, Ecuador, 1991).

MURIAN HENDRY

Popular television actor

Ian Hendry, who died in the Royal Free Hospital, London on December 24 at the age of 53, was an actor who specialized in virile, aggressive roles, in films of which he had made a substantial number, and more predominantly from the mid 1950s onwards on television. On the small screen he is especially remembered for his starring roles in popular series like *Police Surgeon* and *The Lone Riders*.

lan Hendry was born in Ipswich on January 13, 1931. His first experience of the world of theatre was when as a part-time drama student he worked in cabaret as a stooge to Coco the Clown. Later, after National Service in the Royal Artillery he trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama.

From here he began a life in rep at Horsham and Worthing and was seen in Goldoni's *Servant of Two Masters* at the Edinburgh Festival. He also had film parts in *Simon and Laura* and *The Secret Place* at this period, but it was a successful season at the Oxford Playhouse which brought him to London

He became a sought after television actor, appearing in such series as *Probation Officer* and *The Avengers* of which he was one of the original trio, and *Police Surgeon*. But perhaps one of his most characteristic roles was as Erik Shepherd the tortured alcoholic trying to pull the threads of his life together in *The Lotus Eaters* in the 1970s.

Peter Lawford the British-born leading man who was seen as the suave Englishman in many Hollywood films died in Los Angeles on December 24. He was 61 and had been ill for some time. Altogether Lawford, who eventually became naturalized as an American appeared in over 40 Hollywood films.

After starting in films as a child, he developed into a promising light comedian in the Cary Grant tradition. But as he got older, his career failed to develop and he was seen more and more in small parts.

He was born in London on September 7, 1923 the son of Lieutenant-General Sir Sidney Lawford, and made his film debut only eight years later in an early British talkie, *Poor Old*

Bill. He was still a youngster when he went to Hollywood in 1938 but his easy style and dark good looks kept him in steady demand throughout the 1940s when his pictures included *Mrs. Miniver*, *The White Cliffs of Dover*, *Easter Parade*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Little Women*.

In the following decade, when the slump came to Hollywood, Lawford ended his contract with MGM and turned to the medium which had largely provoked the slump, television. He appeared in two successful series, *Dear Phoebe* and *The Thin Man*, in which Lawford played Dashiell Hammett's famous private detective, Nick Charles.

Lawford gained wider fame through his marriage, in 1955, to Patricia Kennedy, sister of John F. Kennedy. During the 1960 presidential campaign, Lawford was active in support of his brother-in-law, persuading showbusiness personalities

J N N writes
Stewart MacTier, who died recently in Australia, was born and bred with a powerful sense of obligation which inspired exceptional service to his country and to the shipping industry.
Educated at Eton and Magdalene College Cambridge, where he read Mechanical Engineering, he joined the Admiralty in 1941.

ing, he joined Alfred Holt & Co. in 1871, when the Liverpool shipowner received a brief spell as a sea-going engineer and a few years in their main Far Eastern agency, managers of Singapore's Straits Steamship Company, he became a partner in 1876, a director of Glen Line which in 1880 he was rescuing from the wreckage of Lord Kylsant's Royal Mail.

During the Second World War he directed the Ministry of War Transport's Port & Transit Control which was ultimately responsible for the astonishingly effective working of British and many overseas ports; he later became the senior merchant shipping adviser at SHAEF, which brought him his appointments as CBE and American and French decorations.

Then followed a similar and

Colonel Bernard Booth who died in Stoke Mandeville Hospital on Christmas Eve, was one of the many grandchildren of the Salvation Army's founder.

Bernard Bramwell Booth, had a lifetime of service in the Salvation Army. After completing his time at the training college he held posts in this country for some years until he took up duties at International Headquarters.

Subsequently he was in charge of the Army's trading organization, known as the Salvationist Publishing and Supplies Ltd.

Later he was staff secretary of

Simpson

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environmental movement
to previous boundaries."

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**"NO QUESTION,
ROWAN A**

THE ARTS

Sir Michael Tippett, Britain's senior major composer, will be 80 next Wednesday; nowadays he is widely admired and respected, but his public and private paths were not always so smooth, as he tells Nicholas Kenyon

A musical mind ever in vigorous quest

"Hello, love. Come in, come in. You'll have to help me sort out these scores and find the cassettes. What's in that plastic bag? No, that's Bill's new pair of slippers. That one... here's a cassette. The Police. No, that was *Desert Island Discs* yesterday (heavens, he's dreary, isn't he). Here we are, this is what I need for America. Corelli's Fourth Symphony... where's the Suite in D? Ha, a minute while I ring Sally..."

Dropping in on Sir Michael Tippett a couple of days before he leaves for America to celebrate his eightieth birthday is like being plunged into one of his first movements: elaborate rhythmic counterpoint, dislocating syncopations and a bustling energy which (both in his music and his life) would not disgrace a man half his age. Tippett's eyesight may be failing, but he remains an electric interest in the world around him and a quite unabashed enthusiasm for the public success which is now his. (That is surely why he has accepted invitations to be fêted in Houston on his birthday, and then to travel to Dallas and Los Angeles. London will have to wait to celebrate him on the South Bank in the last week of January, with a further major Tippett Festival at the Royal Academy of Music at the end of February.)

But beyond the exuberant chaos of plastic bags, through the huge picture window of Tippett's Wilshire home, there is a vision of uninterrupted peace: a slope of the downs near Chippingham with not a building in sight, across which struts the occasional pheasant. Behind Tippett's activity there has always been a profoundly reflective, questioning mind. We have come to know over the years a great deal about what he thinks and feels, but surprisingly little about what he is, and where he has come from. Now that has changed with the publication of Ian Kemp's major new biography, *Tippett: The Composer and His Music* (Eisenberg, £21), which in addition to substantial stylistic analyses of all Tippett's works, except the most recent, provides for the first time a really detailed biography, full of personal revelations. So it was this I wanted to ask Tippett about, starting with the unpleasant story of homosexuality in his Scottish boarding school, Fettes.

"This has come out in Ian's book now, for a long time I didn't want anything said about it. It was a real scandal that they could put a boy in such a position. I'd let my mother know in my letters that the sex was terrible of me, but I was telling her more explicitly than I realized. I remember almost the whole school was in the sanatorium with some epidemic, and my parents' flat in the south of France. What the hell were they doing there? They'd come to threaten the headmaster! Expose him to the press. Marvellous. But it didn't help the son: I was expected to tell all I knew. Besides, I wasn't innocent! The next term was horrible, cubicle walls



Photograph of Sir Michael Tippett by Malcolm Brown

had been torn down, all that sort of thing. I had to leave..."

"As grammar school [Stamford] I was much happier, but my aesthetic views didn't go down well. I was thought to be intellectually disruptive! Headmasters are very odd people. He thought I should be reading the sermons of Bishop Gore. I was reading Shaw, Wells. Music was more difficult. Malcolm Sargent had been there and I learnt the piano with his teacher, Mrs. Tinkler. I do remember some early things like the Mozart G minor Symphony, and even before that, a boy with a pipe singing 'Over the sea to Skye'. Not even a real folksong, but terribly moving."

"My parents didn't know what was to be done about my becoming a musician. They were very odd, looking back on it. Even Sargent didn't encourage it. Said I had no particular ability as far as he was concerned. Well, I don't mind that... I was a clever boy and they thought I could go into law and make the family fortune. My father had been at Oxford and studied law: that was the only way through as far as he could see. But they found out about the Royal College of Music and so I went there."

"Was he always a rebellious person? "In a sense yes. I had a very early adolescence - ten or eleven! Oh dear! (bursts head in hands) I was playing havoc with the family. But I grew out of it. I always looked at myself and said 'Christ! And that went on! I grew up intellectually very quickly - you can hardly believe how lively one was and yet how ignorant.' And was he always

self-critical? "Yes, because the motivation to learn was very strong and that always succeeded in adjusting things. I'll tell you about the College. They were a dreary lot, they thought you could write harmony exercises at the back of the room while the orchestra rehearsed."

"I had lots of opinions. Beethoven was already important but Mozart not. But I knew I had everything to learn and I went slowly. I stood and watched all Boulton's rehearsals (I got known as 'Boulton's darling', but it didn't worry me. I just went on) and he brought me right up to the podium and let me follow his scores. I wasn't actually watching him conduct. I was listening to the sound. I knew quite early I had an ear for texture."

Success did not come to Tippett at all easily, and when asked about this he slips into the present tense as if it was all still happening: "Constant Lambert was the glamorous figure, you see. He had everything. (Didn't get him very far! No, I don't mean that.) Now he leaves College a year ahead of me, has a ballet commissioned. I consciously then take a decision to go the other way. I'll keep right out of that until I have learnt everything I need to learn."

That accounted for his return to study with R. O. Morris after his College days were over, in order to improve his counterpoint.

Through the 1930s Tippett struggled, teaching and writing in Oxford, becoming engrossed in more or less left-wing activities, in particular conducting an orchestra of unemployed musicians at Morley College. ("I got them to play

what I wanted to learn"), where after the war he became Director of Music. "There were only four or five professional performances of my works. But somehow I knew that I wasn't going to be myself until I was forty. And it happened with *Child of Our Time*. Wasn't he jealous of the successes he saw around him? "Oh, Britten was doing well with the Piano Concerto because he was a brilliant player; like Stravinsky, he appeared a lot. But I was really not affected by it."

"I'll tell you one thing which doesn't come out in Ian's account, which is that when Ben came back from America we were really very close for a while - until *Peter Grimes*, and then he flew off into the clouds and became rather difficult to talk to. But we used to discuss all the things we would do and I remember Ben saying that the only real thing was opera, and so he wrote *Grimes* and formed the company and so on. I couldn't go along with that. I had to say that I wanted always to work in a variety of forms, not just opera, not just symphonies."

"Well, symphonies were a problem. That was what we were expected to do. Vaughan Williams was doing it, and there was Rubbra as his great successor, and there was old Arnold Bax - at the College we used to say 'Arnold's in symphony again' - and they all came out very impressive and they never did anything, they were all the same [shrieks with laughter]."

"I was always on the outside of the fashionable circle. There they all were, Walton, in a way after the war, Cecil Gray, Rawsthorne, a few others; oh, they got married pretty silly at times. After Walton got married, and he heard that they might make Ben music director at Covent Garden, we were summoned to a lunch or something and he got up and started going on about 'keeping the buggers out of Covent Garden'. People are funny, aren't they? But I wasn't at the centre of that world, you see. I couldn't have been any use to them so I had no status in it. And I was never disturbed by it."

Looking back on it, the turning point for Tippett came when conductors arrived who understood his music. "Sargent tried. But, oh God, I remember at a rehearsal a trombonist asking him if some clash was right and he asked me so I said, yes, it's right, it's just like 'Lasciatemi morire'. Sargent didn't have a clue what I was talking about. Nowadays conductors like Andrew Parris and Nick Cleobury know their Monteverdi and Purcell; it's in their blood."

Tippett's stories are endless; they look more malicious in print than they sound when accompanied by giggles and grimaces. Now he has found the perfect interpreter in Colin Davis ("We are very close: the relationship is magical, so that sometimes we hardly dare speak") and his music is accepted and loved internationally; there are no grudges against the past, just surprise that it all could have happened to him.

John Savident (left) and Graeme Garden in *A Little Hotel on the Side*: "the finest farce production seen in London for eighteen years"Irving Wardle assesses the theatrical year
Successful pain-killers

Hardly had the new year dawned than my local off-litence greeted it with a morale-boosting window display. "1984" it said in spooky Gothic lettering eighteen inches high, rudely answered from below by an Andy Capp figure, pointing out the plentiful stock of pain-killers on sale inside, and blowing a large raspberry-hued bubble: "Come off it Orwell!"

That is one way of characterizing the past year's theatrical binges: its jubilant showmen awash in dollars, and the sound of civic strife drowned in the merry clicking of turnstiles as those who can afford it shell out on the latest piece of mindless American pop. However, if there is one thing I have learnt in this job, it is not to expect any direct feed-back from the nation to the national stage. The most topical plays of the year were Dario Fo's *Trumpets and*

event in *Rough Crossing*, for which he was ungratefully clobbered by my esteemed colleagues; and, with Feydeau's *A Little Hotel on the Side*, Jonathan Lyna made his National Theatre debut by directing the finest farce production seen in London since Jacques Charon launched the farce revival with *A Flea in Her Ear* eighteen years ago.

Even *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* - visible from long distance as a best-selling rip-off (when are Sue Townsend's original plays going to activate the managerial chequebooks?) - proved to be a thoroughbred piece of comic workmanship with the resolutely down-market vitality of a seaside postcard.

It is only when you look below the thoroughbred level that doubts start setting in. I cannot recall a year when comedy reached such a saturation point, and when all lines of resistance gave way to the slogan of Fun at Any Price. One can suggest deepening British gloom, or the increasingly buoyant dollar as glib explanations for this. And you can see how an amiably slapdash entertainment like Richard Williams's *Sleeping Out* chimes in with the present mood of parochial withdrawal. Likewise, I have to admit, the RSC revival of *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. But who in their right minds can ever have decided it was worth splashing out on hopelessly unworkable pieces like the Old Vic revival of *Big In Brazil* (already a proven flop) and the unseizable *Top People*?

Meanwhile, the loudly acclaimed flow of fringe discoveries into the commercial theatre has dried up. If the West End was short of good new comedies these were readily available from places like the (now doomed) Gate at the Latchmere and the Bush. But as yet there seem to have been no offers for Sharman, McDonald's *When I Was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout*, the most promising comic debut of the year, and Brian Thompson's marvellous *Turning Over*.

Raspberries and *Coriolanus* - neither conspicuously indebted to the findings of any insight team. While if any show fell flat on its premises it was G. F. Newman's intended exposure of governmental corruption in *An Honourable Profession*.

As for the top-ranking pain-killers, imported or home-brewed, they have been a good deal better than we had any right to expect. *42nd Street*, cynical rehash as it may be, was a consummate piece of stagecraft that restored the shaky fortunes of Drury Lane. Likewise *On Your Toes*, which also dispelled all notions of Broadway philistinism in a glorious alliance between the Balloons Russes and the tap revolution.

Among the native products, *Startlight Express* - millionaire's folly as it seemed to some - pushed the environmental musical beyond previous boundaries and set a new standard for the integration of music and subject-matter. And even Melvyn Bragg's dourly prosaic *The Alred Man* launched Howard Goodall as a dazingly gifted recruit to the British musical stage.

Musicals aside, the Theatre of Comedy opened the year with a deservedly award-winning *See How They Run* and closed it with a fine taboo-breaking sequel, *Two Into One* (which dared to crack jokes about homosexuals and squint-eyed Chinese). Tom Stoppard bravely risked a totally frivolous

accurate and blazingly personal reconstruction that gets my vote for the year's best play.

With work as good as Michael Hastings's *Tom and Viv* (a sharp dramatic forerunner of Peter Ackroyd's biography of T. S. Eliot) also on the scene, you cannot draw any qualitative distinction between plays that embrace the past as a means of topical comment and those that evoke it for its own sake.

But, if there was one production that drove home the feminist cause with heart-grabbing logic, it was Pam Gems's reworking of *Camille* (at Stratford's Other Place), which incidentally revealed Frances Barber as a star whom I can only compare to the young Vanessa Redgrave; anyone with a long enough memory might start invoking Duse.

Redgrave herself made a notable return in *The Aspern Papers*, joining Maureen Lipman, Ann Mitchell, Sheila Gish and Julie Walters in a vintage year for female performances. Among them, the Amazonian standard-bearer is surely Glenda Jackson, who twice descended on London to slake

her appetite on the giant heroines of O'Neill and Racine, which, without her, would have remained unseen. Rarely has personal ambition delivered such public service.

The appearance of Jackson's *Strange Interlude* at the Duke of York's, and the long-overdue British premiere of Strindberg's *The Father* and the good Lord at the Lyric, Hammersmith, highlight the defection of our two main companies - and particularly the RSC - from the international repertoire. By rights, we should be seeing such plays at the Olivier and the Barbican, instead of relying on the whim of independent managements, or outlying repertory theatres (like Watford), which brought in the latest Dario Fo. As it is, the topical withdrawal of playwrights has been matched by increasing insularity of the classical directorate. One can forgive the National Theatre almost anything for the Christopher Morahan-Michael Frey version of Chekhov's *Wild Honey*. But when are continental stagcraft and a sense of the full European tradition going to transfigure that house again?

Fiona Shaw and Valentine Pelka in *Bloody Poetry*: "the year's best play"

Looking at the new play market in general, one is less struck by what is there than by what is missing. There has been a deafening silence from the top end of the profession, broken only by Michael Frayn's muted *Benefactors* (suggesting one of his old Miscellany pieces, minus the jokes), and Harold Pinter's modest debut in the political field with *One for the Road* (joined, amazingly, by Beckett in *Catastrophe*). Otherwise not only has the "decline of England" play vanished from the scene, but also any thoughtful treatments of the here and now (Ireland, thanks to Ron Hutchinson and Seamus Heaney, is another matter). Instead, the focus of new writing has shifted to other times and other places.

Following David Pownall's *Master Class*, Charles Wood (*Red Star*), Michael Wilcox (*The 78 Revolution*) and Stephen Poliakoff (*Breaking the Silence*) explored other lunacies of intellectual survival in the Soviet past, capped by even crazier goings-on in the British wartime Secret Service in Nicholas Wright's *The Desert Air*. Ronald Harwood's *Tramway Road* dealt a blow against British self-righteousness by involving a pair of emigré little Englanders in the birth of apartheid. Howard Brenton lined up Castlereagh's Britain with Thatcher's through the lives of those better known exiles, Shelley and Byron, in *Bloody Poetry*: a biographically

Television over the Christmas holiday
Contrasting tales of two tenors

An unexpected pleasure of this season was the sound of Luciano Pavarotti singing "O sole mio", the ballad now forever appropriated by the commercials for Walls ice-cream. Christmas television is indeed very much like a Cornetto, that which should be crisp is usually soggy, and that which should be creamy is often merely glutinous.

Pavarotti at Madison Square Garden (Boxing Day, BBC 2) was a case in point - co-produced by Arena and WNET, the American recording of the tenor's appearance before an audience of 20,000 this summer was a dull waste of the occasion. A little touch of Woodstock would have relieved what was otherwise a respectful, monochrome succession of arias and curtain calls. Only the British-made interview sandwiched between the two halves of the event added context to it.

Tantalizing glimpses of the rapacious multi-ethnic audience left us to guess its significance to New Yorkers. Pavarotti was cautiously described as "for many, the world's greatest tenor". On Christmas Eve it was the turn of Plácido Domingo, billed more modestly as "the busiest singer in history". For Plácido, a year in the life of this great tenor (Channel 4), the producer-director Revel Guest followed him to a dozen cities and gave us a satisfying, relaxed hagiography which could rely on Domingo's

powerful performances and personal charm to counteract numerous shots of large jets ascending into sunset.

This was a skilful compilation including scenes from nine operas, a masterclass in Northampton and a priceless American show with the comedienne Carol Burnett. In all this there was still time for a quiet insight into Domingo's art, in a sequence where he sat down at the piano to explore the role of Lohengrin.

What is it about the winter solstice which prompts television schedulers to regard every celebrity as a talisman which must be ritually visited to ward off evil ratings in the forthcoming 12 months? From Elton John to James Bond, from Marilyn Monroe to Paul Daniels, the sacred names are conjured to the screen to give their blessing. This year a massive tribute to Eric Morecambe on ITV on Christmas Day, filled the sad new gap in the pantheon.

In this procession of be-hemoth images *That's Street Entertainment* (Boxing Day, Channel 4) was refreshingly human in its appeal. This was a celebration of the disparate talents who entertain Londoners and tourists on the cobblestones of Covent Garden. There were singers (some of whom could sing in tune), dancers, roller-skaters, escapologists and those who entertained by their ridiculous nerve alone - like the man

who assembled a crowd by purportedly preparing to dive into a half-pint of lager.

The winners of the buskers' annual festival were a deliciously clever pair of mimes called The Vicious Brothers. Somehow it was comforting to know that so much talent could still escape the glitzy trawl of television show-business.

Daisy Ashford's *The Young Visitors* (Channel 4) was carefully brought to the screen on the afternoon of Christmas Day by James Hill, who succeeded in conveying the acutely-observed if mis-spelt charm of this delicate piece. What could easily have been a confection of saccharine prettiness was saved by Tracy Ullman, whose primly composed Victorian miss had a wonderful undertone of spite.

There are some lines which are almost impossible for an actor to say with conviction. "Oh mum, there's a body in the library" is one of them, and to the credit of all concerned it was delivered with absolute success in last night's beginning of Agatha Christie's *Miss Marple mystery* (BBC1). In the title role Joan Hickson managed to convey "forensic intuition developed to the point of genius" in half-a-dozen lines; the director, Silvio Narizzano, applied the ivy-clad, cucumber sandwich kitsch with aplomb.

Celia Brayfield

Outworn ideas of appreciation

Christopher Nupen's *Sibelius*, shown on Channel 4 on Christmas Day, was in the grand tradition of television musical biography. It was eminently respectful: it was often very beautiful to look at, and it was deeply misleading. The problem is always the union of sound and picture; music is about the divorce of sound from any visual image; but that of musicians performing to show us many misers over Finnish lakes and forests while we are hearing Sibelius's Fourth Symphony is to go back to notions of musical appreciation that died out in written criticism about a century ago.

But Mr Nupen went further. Besides the pictures we also had a voice reading extracts from Sibelius's correspondence speaking of his difficulties with this work, which is a bit like

being shown photographs from the abattoir while one is enjoying a meal. Of course Sibelius was influenced by the landscape of Finland, and of course it was a struggle for him to get his works right. But the equations are a lot more complex than this film proposed. One needs to be offered some evidence, as certainly exists in the case of the Fifth Symphony, of just what Sibelius's problems were and how, in succeeding versions, he tackled them. Television is precisely the medium in which such a discussion might take place.

This, however, was not Mr Nupen's purpose. What we had were the faces of Sibelius's life illustrated with landscapes and the greatest hits fervently conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy. Elizabeth Söderström also popped up to sing a couple of songs, without so much as a

subtle. Oh, and there were critical judgements on a breathtaking level of imperiousness. The Violin Concerto, one was pleased to learn, does not live up to its opening, and the Third Symphony is the first Sibelius wrote that is "worthy throughout of his genius".

No musicians or critics appeared to voice opinions that might conceivably have been a little more interesting, nor were we allowed to see anyone who might have offered first-hand recollections of Sibelius. Indeed, when it went out of the orchestra-choked studio, Nupen's film was curiously lacking in human figures, other than that of the composer himself in photographs and archive footage. It was just the forests, the lakes, the snow, the dull, didactic commentary and all those symphonies.

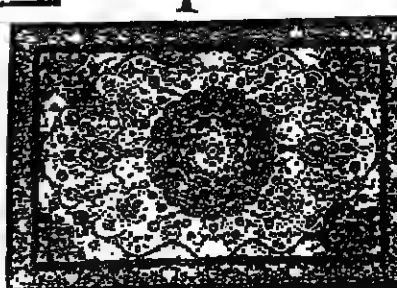
Paul Griffiths

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198	168	Pope & Bell	192	5.8

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435	202	Stock Conversion	17
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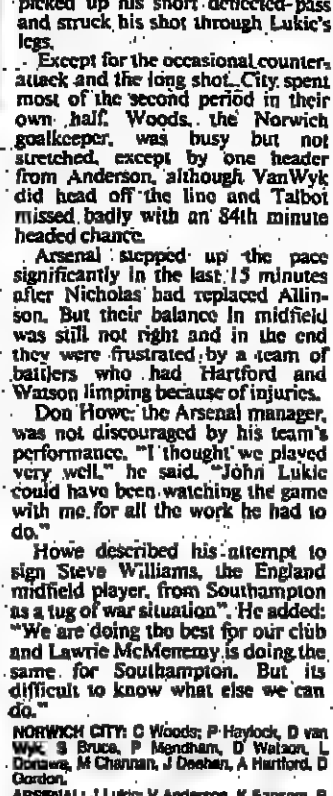
Arsenal in run of away defeats

Norwich City Arsenal 1 0

Armsen stumbled to their ninth consecutive away defeat yesterday, beaten by John Deehan's 43rd-minute goal. They were never really outplayed, nor were they out-fought, and woke up far too late to the essentials of tackling, something which their north London neighbours, Tottenham Hotspur, had accomplished far more impressively against Norwich City four days earlier.

Armsen missed a presentable chance in the 31st minute but Arsenal had little to show for playing three central defenders and both their full backs, Anderson and Campbell, rather than the

Norwich had most of the possession, mainly through Hartford's outstanding control and



Don Howe, the Arsenal manager, was not discouraged by his team's performance. "I thought we played very well," he said. "John Lukic could have been watching the game with me for all the work he had to do."

stretched, except by one header from Anderson, although Van Wyk was the only one who was not missed badly when the 34th minute headed chase.

Arnsdal, supported up the pace since the 15th minute, after being replaced by Nicholas had replaced Allinson. But their balance in midfield was still not right and in the end the two teams were left with no strikers who had Hartford and Watson limping because of injuries.

Don Howe: the Arsenal manager, who was in the stands, was in good performance. "I thought we played very well," he said. "John Lukic could have been watching the game and me for all the work he had to do."

Howe described his attempt to sign Steve Williams, the England international, as "a bit of a fiasco as a tug of war situation". He added: "We are doing the best for our club and Lawrie McCormery is doing the

NORWICH CITY: C Woods; P Haylock, D van Wyk, S Bruce, P Mencham, D Watson, L Donawa, M Chennan, J Deehan, A Hartford, D Gordon.

ARSENAL: J Lukic; V Anderson, K Sansom, B Tatton, D O'Leary, A Adams, S Robson, T Catot, P Marner, A Woodcock, I Atkinson (Sub).

stand-in stands firm

Three goals from Ray Pratt helped Exeter City to their first win in 32 games. Pratt scored in the

Exeter's other goal came from Smith, who was stretched off just after making the score 2-0. Marshall, Hall and Sims brought Torquay back into the game with three goals in six minutes after the break.

A goal by Todd 11 minutes from time gave Darlington a 2-1 win over Traamers Rovers. Darlington had taken a lead through Foster, but

Bury took another step towards promotion with a 4-0 home win over Port Vale with goals from Entwistle (2), Bramhall and Madden.

Posponed: Woodford v Cambridge.
SUSSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Bognorissa 1, Wotton 2.
SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Midhurst 1, Portland 3; Whitehawk 2, Peacehaven 2.
SURREY COUNTY LEAGUE: Curzon Athletic 1, Stanfords Celtic 2.
NORTH WEST LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Fleetwood Town 5, Wren Rovers 1. Rye House Eastwood Hareley 1, Ayrington Stanley 2.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton Town 2, Eastwood Town 0. Appleby Frodingham 4, Boston 1. Belper Town 1, Garsley 0. Danby Utd 1, Bentley Vic 1. Emley 2, Mexborough Town 1.
Division 2: Embsay 1, Thryby 0. First division: Farnley Celtic 4, Thryby 0.

Herrograta Fly 2, Harrograta Town 1;
Laverage 4, Laverth 0; Proucheville 1, Hattam 0.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Ash 6, Pannham 0; Cobham 4, BAE (Weymouth) 2; Crow v Fritley Gr - postponed; Rase v Hurley W - postponed; Grafting v Cratling - postponed; Hurley v Mersham - postponed; Maiden Vale v Maiden Town - postponed; Southwick 4, Farnham Town 1; Virginia Water v Chobham - postponed.

WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Blandford 3, Bursledon 0; Bristol Manor Farm 2, Margatefield 1; Devizes 0, Chippingham 2; Exmouth 3, Dewish 1; Lissard 1, Salish 3; Shornton Mallet 1, Chard 1; Taunton 1.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Peterlee 1, Horden CW 0; South G 4, Whitley 2; Slatton 1, Blad Auckland 2; Tow Law 2.

CONTACT 2: Chester-le-Strait 0, Ryhope 3; Blyth Spartans 1, Spennymoor 0.

First goal against West Ham



Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

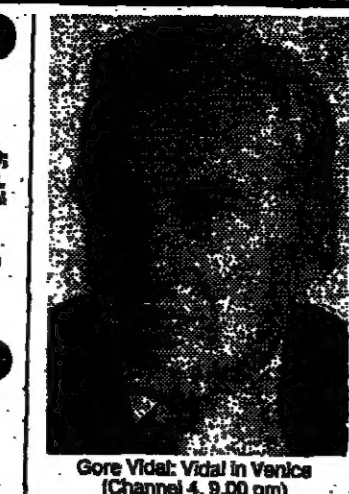
BBC 1

- 00.00 **Ceefax** AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the latest facility.
- 06.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Frank Bough at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hour; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18. Plus exercises from the Green Goddess and a look back at some of the year's breakfast time highlights. The guest is Terry Scott.
- 09.00 **Charlie Brown**. Cartoon. 9.25 **High Private Eyn** (9.25). Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon version (9.30). **Lassie** comes to the aid of two moonshiners trapped by a forest fire.
- 10.15 **Jackanory**. Charlie Loughlin leads Puss in Boots (9.30). Play School, presented by Carol Chell. 10.50 **Heads and Tails**. A See-Saw programme for the very young (9.11.05). **Cartoon** Tom and Jerry.
- 10.15 **Bonanza**. Little Joe meets a sailor who is returning home to unearthing a cache he hid many years before. But his home is now a thriving town. 12.05 **Walk Tall**. Your Father Gets Home. A Hanna-Barbera cartoon series.
- 12.30 **Midday News** with Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Jim Bacon. 12.42 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 12.45 **Junior Kick Start**. The final heat. 1.10 **Kung Fu**. Caine meets his half-brother and becomes involved in a feud. 2.00 **Bugs Bunny's Looney Christmas Tales**.
- 12.20 **Film: Courage of Lassie** (1948) starring Elizabeth Taylor. The brave dog has had a successful second world war but like some of his human colleagues he returns home deeply affected by the hostilities. Directed by Fred M. Wilcox.
- 13.50 **Jackanory**. Martin Jarvis reads William Shakespeare. 4.05 **Alice in Wonderland**. A cartoon version with the voices of Nigel Hawthorne and Tracy Childs. 4.30 **Cartoon**: Tom and Jerry. 4.40 **Culture Club** in Concert at the National Exhibition Centre. Birmingham. 5.30 **Grange Hill**. Episode 17 (9). (Ceefax).
- 5.00 **News** with Frances Coverdale. 5.15 **Regional News**.
- 5.20 **Tomorrow's World** explores the world of illusion and perception.
- 6.50 **The Top of the Pops Review** of 1984, introduced by Lenny Henry.
- 7.50 **The Kenny Everett Christmas Show**. Fast moving comedy sketches from a very funny man.
- 8.20 **Porgie**. It is Christmas time at St. Paul's and the inmates, notably Norman Stanley Fletcher, are not feeling seasonal (9). (Ceefax).
- 9.00 **Miss Marple: The Body in the Library**. Part two and Miss Marple's theory about a second killing is proved correct (Ceefax).
- 9.55 **News** with Frances Coverdale.
- 10.10 **Review of the Year 1984** presented by Frank Bough and Selina Scott (Ceefax).
- 11.30 **Golf: The One Club Challenge** for the Epsom Trophy. The second match in the competition and Severiano Ballesteros with Lee Trevino play Greg Norman and Hal Sutton. The commentator is Peter Alliss.
- 12.20 **Weather**.

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Hopleycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 8.30 and 7.30; guests, sport at 8.45, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18. Plus exercises from the Green Goddess and a look back at some of the year's breakfast time highlights. The guest is Terry Scott.
- 9.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by **Films**. Musical stories for the young, introduced by Christopher Lillipap (9.35). **The Christmas Tree Train**. The story of a young boy, his dog, and a fox cub, who live in a forest of Christmas trees.
- 10.00 **Film: Island of Adventure** (1981) starring Chloë Franks, Patrick Field, Norman Bowler and William B. Davis. An Enid Blyton adventure.
- 11.25 **New Brighton Rock**. Pop concert recorded at New Brighton's bathing pool. Among the acts appearing are Gloria Gaynor, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and Spandau Ballet (9).
- 1.00 **News** at One. 1.20 **Thames news** with Robin Houston.
- 1.30 **St Ivel Ice Gala**, presented by Richard Reed from the Richmond Ice Rink. The star of the show is Robin Cousins.
- 2.30 **Film: The Thirty Nine Steps** (1978) starring Robert Powell. John Buchan's classic adventure story about an engineer who becomes involved with British intelligence, themselves trying to prevent the visiting Greek Prime Minister from being assassinated. Directed by Don Sharp.
- 4.15 **University Challenge** presented by Bamber Gascoigne.
- 4.45 **Knight Rider**. Michael Knight and his computerized car, KITT, are tricked into helping a 14-year-old con artist (9).
- 5.45 **News**. 6.00 **Thames news**.
- 6.35 **News**. More drama from the Midlands motel.
- 7.00 **The Krypton Factor Olympic** Challenge. Special. For a medalist from this year's Olympics competes in a searching series of physical tests followed by one to test the brain. Gordon Burns introduces. Tessa Sanderson, Andy Holmes, Neil Adams and Jane Croft (Oracle).
- 7.30 **Film: Somebody Killed Her Husband** (1978) starring Farah Fawcett and Jeff Bridges. A light-hearted mystery story about the young wife of an unhappy marriage who meets a man she falls in love with. When the two of them eventually go to confront the husband they find he has been murdered. Directed by Lamont Johnson.
- 8.15 **Frankenstein**. Mary Shelley's classic horror tale about a man's attempts to construct another human by means of spare-part surgery and how the experiments went badly wrong. Starring Robert Powell, Carrie Fisher, David Warner, John Gielgud, Terence Alexander and Susan Woodridge (Oracle).
- 10.40 **News** followed by **Thames news** headlines.
- 11.00 **World in Action: The First 21 Years**. A compilation of the best of the investigative programme's subjects drawing on its mammoth archive of nearly 500 hours of film. Early black and white footage examines the bathroom dancing craze of the 1950s while later topics include sanctions busting in Rhodesia and tales of financial double dealing (Oracle).
- 12.30 **Pease**, presented by Gill Nevill.
- 12.40 **Closedown**.

ITV LONDON



Gore Vidal: Vidal in Venice (Channel 4, 9.00 pm)

● **VIDAL IN VENICE** (Channel 4, 9.00pm) is a personal view of La Serenissima by the American writer, Gore Vidal: personal being the key word, for Mr Vidal has found blood in his veins which makes him a Venetian as near as damn it. You will note that the title is Vidal in Venice, not Vidal on Venice. This makes Vidal a Scorsese's two films (the second can be seen tomorrow night) even more personal, because Mr Vidal is not just talking over the pictures, but becomes an integral part of them. And it must be said that he is almost as photogenic as the city itself, a romantic movie star manque. In fact, the most interesting thing about tonight's film is Mr Vidal's attempt to identify his Venetian ancestry. In ancient books, the trace of Vidal's Venetian blood is there. And there were three

CHOICE

Vidals who were dogs, but as Vidal was only their Christian name, we are denied the spectacle of seeing Mr Vidal throwing a wedding ring into the Grand Canal in the symbolic ritual of marrying city to sea. He has more luck with the Tiepolo family. The director of the city's archives turns out to be the last of the line. Venice has had many far less conscientious historians than Gore Vidal. And he is sparing in his use of the cliché, contenting himself with the self-evident fact that Venice is the city itself, a romantic movie star manque. In fact, the most interesting thing about tonight's film is Mr Vidal's attempt to identify his Venetian ancestry. In ancient books, the trace of Vidal's Venetian blood is there. And there were three

3.25pm, still the most stylish and funniest film ever made about a multi-murderer, and Richard Attenborough's **OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR** (Channel 4, 10.00pm), a brilliantly inventive musical about another kind of mass murder.

● **Radio highlights**: Emyln Williams's **READINGS FROM DICKENS** (Radio 4, 11.15pm), which are superb examples of the storyteller's art, and deserves an earlier slot than this. And **THE DREAM CHILD** (Radio 4, 9.45am), Richard Muller's portrait of Charles and Mary Lamb: a tragic brother-sister relationship that, despite every effort, produced so much charming literature.

Peter Davalle

CHANNEL 4

- 11.00 **Film: Captain Stirk** (1982) made by the Children's Film Unit. A musical drama, set in 19th century London, follows the adventures of a gang of child thieves and pickpockets. Professional adult actors, Freddie Jones, Roger Sloman and Ronnie Stanger are joined by children aged from seven to 17 (9).
- 12.40 **Christmas Cracker**. A seven awards-winning animated film. Rhythmic Norman McLaren's award-winning animated film.
- 1.00 **Channel Four Racing** from Kempton Park. Brought Scott introduces coverage of four races - the Kennington Novices' Chase (12.40), the Ladies' Handicap (1.00), the Ladbrokes Handicap Chase (1.40), and the Fallowfield Novices' Chase (2.10). The race commentator is Graham Gosling.
- 2.30 **We're Gonna Sing**. A documentary that examines the life of black people in this country through the medium of gospel singing. With the London Community Gospel Choir, directed by the Rev. Ben M. Mendenhall. Echoes of Joy, the latter rain Outpouring Choir and Lawrence Johnson.
- 3.10 **Arms and the Man**, by George Bernard Shaw. Richard Briers, Alice Krige and Peter Egan star in this television version of the 1932 West End revival of Shaw's comic play. The comedy about an escaping Swiss officer from the routed Serbian Army who takes refuge in the bedroom of the enemy commander's fiancée (9).
- 5.00 **Sebastian Coe** Born to Run. A documentary, filmed over a period of two years, that follows the ups and downs and ups of one of Britain's top athletes. Written and narrated by Tony Maylam.
- 6.00 **The Amateur Naturalists** of the Year. The winners of the three sections (different age groups) at work on their projects. A schoolmistress goes on a suburban safari: a young boy organizes a scheme to save Norfolk frogs; and a teenage girl studies the plight of the badger. Presented by Gerald Durrell and Lee Durrell.
- 7.00 **Channel Four News** and **Weather**.
- 7.30 **Hawthorne**. Michael Bogdanov's adaptation of Longfellow's classic poem, first produced at the National Theatre.
- 9.00 **Vidal in Venice**. Gore Vidal presents the first of a two-part examination of the rise and fall of the Venetian empire.
- 10.00 **Film: Oh! What a Lovely War** (1969). A huge, distinguished comedy about the First World War from the end of Brighton Pier.
- 12.30 **Closedown**.

Radio 4

- On long wave: also VHF stereo.
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